FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 SEPTEMBER 1984

Plane Hijacking

Iraq has granted political asylum to two men and their three family members after they hijacked an Iran Air Boeing-727 on 8 September, AFP reported. The men had hijacked the plane during an Iranian internal flight, forcing it to stop over in Bahrain and Egypt before landing in Iraq on 9 September, INA noted. The hijackers, who are members of a group led by former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar according to MENA, stated at a news conference in Baghdad reported by INA that they took their action to highlight the "oppression of the Iranian regime." They also denied reports that passengers were injured during the hijacking. Iran Air claimed in a communique cited by IRNA that the hijackers were supporters of "international Zionism" who were attempting to overshadow Iran's moves to oust Israel from the United Nations and overshadow the visit to Damascus by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Iran

Khamene'i Tour — The delegation led by President Khamene'i arrived in Algiers on 9 September on a "working and friendship" visit, Algiers radio reported. The delegation had departed Damascus for Sidra the day before, where meetings were then held with Libyan leaders, JANA noted. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated that the "very useful" talks in Libya centered on developments in North Africa and the Middle East, IRNA disclosed. The two sides agreed "in principle" to strengthen their "anti-imperialist" cooperation, the agency added. A joint Iranian-Syrian statement on 8 September broadcast by Damascus television and Tehran radio emphasized that the talks in Damascus were held in an "atmosphere of brotherhood, friendship, and understanding"; and centered on "Zionist aggression," the Iraq-Iran war, and the Lebanese situation. Concerning the war with Iraq, the two sides agreed that Iran should continue its "defensive fighting" until the fall of Iraq's Saddam Husayn, IRNA added. Among the meetings in Damascus, the commander of Iran's land forces was received by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, Tehran radio noted.

Khomeyni Comments — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told a group of organizing committee members on 9 September that he "rejected any compromise" in the war with Iraq, according to IRNA. Any such compromise would "bury Islam," he added. Referring to the recent hijacking of an Iranian airliner, he stated that it was not an "important" subject because hijackings occur throughout the world and are easily accomplished.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad on 6 September following visits to France and the FRG, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported.

Lebanon

Iranian, Syrian Contacts — An Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation was received in Tripoli on 7 September by Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Sha'ban accompanied the Iranians to Damascus the following day, where he met with Khamene'i, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Sha'ban also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati, Tehran radio's international service added. While in Damascus, Sha'ban was received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on 9 September, Damascus radio noted; and he held a lengthy meeting with rival Democratic Party Secretary General Na'ib al-Khatib, Radio Monte Carlo Disclosed. During his stay in Damascus, Khamene'i also received Mufti Hasan Khalid on 8 September, Beirut radio reported; while IRNA noted his meeting with a delegation from the Ba'labakk and Al-Biqa' districts. In his fourth visit to Damascus in a week, Minister Walid Junblatt met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on 9 September, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

In a related development, the commander of the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps inspected Iranian gunmen's positions in Ba'labakk on 8 September, Voice of Lebanon reported. A Lebanese diplomatic source cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio later denied a Radio Free Lebanon report that Khamene'i also visited Ba'labakk the same day. The source said the second visitor was the Iranian land forces commander.

Israeli Air Raid — The Israeli Air Force scored "accurate hits" in an attack on the DFLP "headquarters" in Bhamdun on 10 September, according to the IDF spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio. A Lebanese security source cited by Radio Free Lebanon stated that the raid killed one person and wounded one other.

Birri, Islamic Jihad Threats — Minister Nabih Birri stated at a rally on 9 September that he will boycott Cabinet sessions and that he has issued orders to carry out "suicide attempts" against Israeli forces, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. In a related development, the Islamic Jihad group has threatened to attack a "key American interest" in the Middle East, AFP noted. The group stated in a telephone call to a "foreign" news agency that their members were prepared to "sacrifice their lives" to destroy a U.S. or "Zionist institution, even of secondary importance."

Maghreb

Morocco has decided to abolish entry visas as of 10 September for Algerian citizens entering Morocco, Rabat radio reported.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand returned to Kabul on 7 September after a "short visit" to the Soviet Union, Kabul radio reported.

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'Arafat Confers With YAR President in San'a'

JN071705 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in San'a' yesterday. Our correspondent said they discussed the issue of convening the 17th PNC session as scheduled as well as developments in the Arab region.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF091722 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left San'a' at noon today following a 4-day visit to the YAR. In a predeparture statement to SABA' News Agency, Brother Abu 'Ammar said he discussed with Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, a number of issues that concern the Arab nation, particularly in view of the current developments and rapid events in the Arab region, including the situation of Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories and relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that he briefed the brother prime minister on the results of the Palestinian dialogue, the Aden-Algiers agreement, and the proposed meeting of the PNC session toward the end of this month. He concluded his statement by indicating it has been agreed to continue contacts and coordination on all the topics discussed.

He was seen off by Brother Abu Humayd, commander of the Sabra camp forces, and a number of Palestinian revolution cadres.

'Arafat Sends Message to SFRY President 7 Sep

JN081704 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sent a message yesterday to Veselin Djuranovic, president of the SFRY Presidency. Our correspondent has learned that the message deals with the strong militant relations between the Palestinian and the SFRY sides and recent developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international situation.

'Arafat To Visit Amman in Next 'Few Days'

JN090904 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will pay a visit to Amman in the next few days. During the visit he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials to continue the efforts toward deepening and bolstering Palestinian-Jordanian joint action.

'Arafat Says PNC To Convene at End of September

JN091713 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1612 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text]0 Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stressed that the PNC will convene as scheduled at the end of this month. In a statement to soldiers and officers of the Sabra and Shatila martyrs camp in the YAR yesterday, Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar said the Palestinian revolution has emerged triumphant despite the plots hatched against it. He stressed that the Palestinian revolution's military forces are once again what they were before.

Khalil al-Wazir on Efforts To Convene PNC

JN090937 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Sep 84 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has affirmed that the 17th PNC session will be held in Algiers on Friday, 28 September. This will coincide with popular conferences which will be held in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and in principal cities in the occupied Palestinian territories in support of the legitimacy and convening of the PNC and in support of its political and organizational results.

In an exclusive statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Abu Jihad affirmed that a joint committee, chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and comprised of four Executive Committee members and the deputy speaker and the secretary of the PNC, is currently carrying out all the measures that precede and will accompany the PNC session to ensure its success. The committee will invite the active members only; no observer members will be invited in order to prevent any ambiguity or doubt from shrouding the PNC's quorum.The distribution of invitations will be completed before the middle of this month.

An expanded Palestinian meeting will be held in Algiers in the presence of Dr George Habash, the PFLP's secretary general; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and all the representatives of the sides to the Aden-Algiers agreement who remain committed to implementing the agreement, regarded as a sound basis toward restoring the PLO's unity.

On the National Alliance's boycott of the PNC session, Abu Jihad affirmed: We remain committed to the unity of all factions within the organization. We urge everyone to respond to the appeals of Fatah and the Democratic Alliance calling for participation in the dialogue in preparation for the PNC session. I assure them everyone will be given the chance and have the freedom to present their views, no matter how much they may differ from ours and regardless of how realistic or extreme their demands may be. We will also respond to any reformist demands aimed at reinforcing the general rules, which will guarantee the freedom and independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and secure a collective leadership for the PLO. However, we will not keep our institutions paralyzed and inactive. We have decided to convene the PNC even if some parties decide to boycott it.

PLO Subcommittee Adopts Measures on PNC Session

JN071728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee's four-member subcommittee has adopted a number of measures on convening the 17th PNC session as scheduled in accordance with the Aden-Algiers agreement. The measures were adopted during the subcommittee's meeting on Monday at the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

PLO Radio on Syrian Attempts To Hamper PNC

JN091803 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1631 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Political editor's dispatch]

[Text] The convocation of the PNC is of extreme importance in our national life, especially since it represents a Palestinian framework within which the Palestinian family meets to agree on its national program and the structure of its leadership. If the PNC is not Palestinian in spirit, content, and decisions, then we do not need it.

We say this while sensing the provocative intrusion by some Arab sides. Those sides spare no effort to hamper the convening of the PNC unless it takes place on their terms, as if the most important Palestinian institution in our contemporary history has turned into a branch of the [Syrian] revolution's youth union, which convenes and ends at the teacher's order. Palestinian dignity rejects this situation and consequently, all Palestinian nationalists are committed to resisting this imposition and preventing it from affecting our national and militant life. All Palestinians reject trusteeship, containment, and subservience to any side and by anyone, all the more so if the one seeking to impose containment and trusteeship has a long history of striking at the Palestinian people, conniving against their blood, and abandoning them during difficult circumstances.

What compels an Arab president to recover from his illness and violate the rules of medical care to fly to the ends of the world in an attempt to prevent the convocation of the PNC? Is it his concern about the Palestinian people? Is it a decent effort to show us the shortest road to Palestine? Unfortunately, it is neither. It is completely the opposite. It is rancor that fills the heart. In fact, it is an act of sabotage whose perpetrator has offered us nothing except this act since Tal az-Za'tar.

As Palestinians we are fully aware of our interests. We also know who our enemy is and who our friends are. We affirm that we will convene our PNC and determine our national policy without subservience, containment, and trusteeship. We have sacrificed our best youth for the sake of freedom and independent decision. We will not hesitate to make sacrifices for the sake of safeguarding our freedom and independent decisionmaking. Let all ambitious sides hear this. Let them be assured the Palestinian people are stronger than they and capable of bypassing them and overcoming their ambushes and plots.

Khalil al-Wazir on Syrian-PLO Rapprochement

JN091116 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep 84 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] In a statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that an agreement was reached recently on a so-called last resort to restore normalcy to PLO-Syrian relations and to prevent any obstacles from being placed in the path of convening the PNC. This will be attempted during PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's visit to Algeria in the next 2 days during which he will hold consultations with President Chadli Bendjedid. The PDRY chairman is expected to visit Damascus afterward to discuss with the Syrian president, on behalf of the PDRY and Algeria, the issue of removing obstacles from the path of the PNC's forthcoming session and to urge the hesitant parties to participate in the comprehensive national dialogue.

Qaddumi Arrives in Malta, Holds News Conference

NC100518 Cairo MENA in English 2210 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Valletta, Malta, Sep 9 (MENA) — Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO Political Department, announced that the recent unity between Libya and Morocco would not last for long. The unity must have been preceeded by intensified studies on economic, social and political sides, he said.

Speaking at a press conference held here tonight, Qaddumi expressed hope that it would not be directed against any one. Describing the Arab political reality as something like moving sand dunes, he said the Arab nation stands in need of a studied unity.

The PLO official condemned the United States for its continuous backing to Israel. He took a pessimistic view of U.S. statements describing the PLO as a terrorist organisation.

Qaddumi had arrived here to take part in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries bordering the Mediterranean due to open here tomorrow.

Fatah Dissidents' Communique on Israeli Raid

JN101039 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Louis Faris dispatch]

[Excerpt] The Fatah dissidents in Damascus have issued a military communique in the name of the Al-'Asifah Forces General Command today. The communique says that at 0200 today Israeli warplanes raided a Fatah opposition position in the Bhamdun area. Major Salim Sulayman Da'ud, alias Abu Hasan, was martyred and three fighters of the Fatah forces were wounded in the raid. This raid is the 15th raid by Israeli warplanes against Palestinian targets in Lebanon this year. The last raid was on 28 August when Israeli warplanes attacked a position belonging to the forces of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] in eastern Al-Biqa'.

Fatah Dissidents Claim Attack on Israeli Truck

JN081403 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] The Fatah dissidents in Damascus have issued a statement claiming responsibility for attacking an Israeli military truck on the Jerusalem-Ramallah Road yesterday. The statement said the Israelis suffered military casualties, and the members of the fedayeen group returned safely to their bases. Israeli radio admitted the operation, but did not mention casualties.

Resistance Attacks in South Lebanon Continue

JN071720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese national resistance men are escalating their heroic operations against equipment and personnel of the Zionist invasion forces and the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon in occupied southern Lebanon, inflicting further losses in equipment and life.

A group of resistance men attacked a Zionist military position near the Ar-Rashidiyah refugee camp in occupied southern Lebanon yesterday. Several Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded in the machine gun and hand grenade attack. Another resistance group launched a machine gun and rocket attack on a position belonging to the so-called army of southern Lebanon militias near occupied An-Nabatiyah yesterday. Several members of the agent position were killed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations but, as usual, did not mention any losses. He said his forces and elements of the agent militias immediately launched extensive search campaigns and arrested a large number of citizens under the pretext of collaborating with the resistance men, who returned safely to base.

San'a' VOP Criticizes Reagan's Support for Israel

GF091836 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Unattributed talk]

[Excerpts] Brothers, the specific speech Reagan delivered before B'nai B'rith, the major Zionist organization in the United States, in which he begged for the votes of America's Zionists and stressed so overtly and clearly that the United States stands in the same ditch alongside the Zionist enemy state which is linked to the United States through a strategic alliance and strategic goals, is aimed at protecting the security of both sides, as Reagan stated word for word.

The U.S. President was not content with affirming the stance and goals that America is trying to implement in the region through giving the Zionist enemy a free hand in the region, but also announced in a much more detailed manner that his administration will enable Israel to dominate the region in order to serve the interests of both America and Israel, and that it will not hesitate to use all means and methods of support to help Israel to become capable one day of achieving the goals of the strategic alliance and shifting from the stage of contribution to the stage of partnership, as he put it.

After reviewing what U.S. President Reagan said in his speech, we reaffirm, to those who dream there will be changes in America's policy toward our cause and toward the world's just causes, our fixed and principled stand toward the United States and the U.S. policy that continues to be pursued by all administrations. As for our stand in the PLO, we have no illusions. The enemy is clear before us and the means of our confrontation against him are numerous. The PLO — which is facing a U.S. decision which for several years aimed to destroy the PLO and annihilating its people through all means, methods, and tools, whether the executing tools are American, Zionist, or others — continues to be in full control and armed with the determination to fight and continues to be capable of protecting its existence, people, and cause.

We will not be terrified by threats or by direct or indirect signals. Just as our reply was during September [1970 civil war in Jordan] and later during the Tripoli siege, our reply to any other siege will be tougher and more painful; it will be comprehensive in time and place and will utilize all legitimate means and methods for self-defense. We will reply to official and organized terrorism through armed revolutionary struggle against the policy of murder and murderers. The PLO also realizes, from a strategic point of view, the (?goals) of the U.S. policy in our region and in the entire world. It also realizes it is still the primary and toughest obstacle confronting U.S. and Israeli policies in the region.

Khalil al-Wazir Comments on U.S. Veto

JN091343 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep 84 p 24

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — Commenting on the U.S. veto against the Lebanese draft resolution on the Israeli practices in southern Lebanon, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, told *AD-DUSTUR* that the U.S. veto shows the nature of U.S. submission to Israeli blackmail and to Israeli votes in an election campaign. Abu Jihad added that even regarding this humanitarian issue, which is considered a matter of simple human rights and which is included in the Geneva Conventions, the United States always insists on providing Israel with military, material, and moral support. Abu Jihad said: What we always see in international institutions shows the real U.S. stand which adheres to the Zionist enemy and always stands against Arab rights to Palestine and to all Arab territories.

Fatah Member Says U.S. Behind Red Sea Mining

GF081405 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Sep (WAKH) — In a statement published today in Kuwait Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan called for a Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. He said: Such an agreement is considered a cornerstone for achieving Arab solidarity based on a specific working plan and is an effective means for confronting the requirements of the future. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS*, Al-Hasan said the Syrian-Palestinian differences are caused by wrong information and dialogue is the only way to eliminate these differences and reach a unified strategy. He said the Arab summit has lost the ability to execute its resolutions, especially after the exit of Egypt from the Arab trench.

The Palestinian official declared the United States and Israel were behind the mining of the Red Sea in order to cause further tension in the Arab region and force the Arab region to seek help from foreign forces. He said the recent Soviet initiative on the settlement of the Middle East issue was a protective attack against U.S. and Israeli initiatives which are expected to be proposed after the forthcoming U.S. presidential election.

GULF AFFAIRS

Gulf Sources Question Reported Saudi Deal

GF100625 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 10 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Gulf shipping sources last night expressed doubts about an alleged secret Saudi deal to store millions of tonnes of crude in supertankers as "insurance" against the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. A story in the British *DAILY TELEGRAPH* claimed the Saudis had chartered a fleet of supertankers — including some from the British Petroleum fleet — as emergency oil storage tanks. But one Gulf source said: "I'm skeptical about this. They simply couldn't afford to store oil in these vessels indefinitely. The tanker market is showing signs of improvement." Shipping sources in London believe the Saudis have up to seven million tonnes of oil stored in supertankers, according to the report.

BAHRAIN

AFP Reports Hijacked Iranian Airliner Lands in Bahrain

BK081132 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Manama, Bahrain, Sept 8 (AFP) — An Iran Air Boeing 727 passenger jet landed here today, after being hijacked during an internal flight, officials said here. Airport officials here said they had no details about the hijackers.

(The hijackers seized control of the airliner shortly after it took off from Chah Bahar, near the Pakistani border, on a flight to Tehran, sources said in Tehran. According to the Iranian sources, there are 114 passengers on board.)

Plane Refueled, Departs Bahrain

GF081424 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1405 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Manama, 8 Sep (WAKH) — WAKH has learned that a hijacked Iranian Boeing 727 made an emergency landing in Bahrain. The airliner left for an unknown destination this evening after being refueled.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Criticizes U.S. on Lebanon Veto

GF091418 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 9 Sep (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* has called upon the Arab countries to treat the United States as it deserves and put it in the place it has chosen for itself, that is, the camp of the enemies. Commenting on the U.S. veto against the draft resolution presented by Lebanon to the UN Security Council which denounces Israeli practices against the people of southern Lebanon, the newspaper said this hostile act is directed not only against Lebanon, but also against the Arab countries and all of humanity.

The paper said the U.S. veto will not be the last of its kind as long as relations between the Arabs and a hostile United States continue as they are. It adds that moderation, understanding, and wisdom are not strong enough to confront U.S. policy in the Mideast, which lacks principles or morals. The paper said that when an issue arises concerning an Arab country, it is more likely to expect a retreat from and ignorance of pledges by U.S. politicians, because they do not respect the principles of their policies nor recall their moral commitment, except when talking about their love for the Zionists who are occupying the Arab territories.

In conclusion, *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* called upon the Arab nations to prevent Washington, with its stupid policy, from adopting these overtly hostile stands while maintaining normal and good relations with the Arab countries.

KUWAIT

AR-RA‘Y AL-‘AMM Scores U.S. Veto on Lebanon Resolution

LD080943 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Sep (KUNA) — *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* in its editorial today attacked the U.S. Administration for "killing" the moderate draft resolution on Lebanon calling on Israel to stop its suppressive measures against Lebanese citizens in the south. The U.S. veto in the UN Security Council, it said, "means absolute American support for the slaughter of human rights in the Lebanese south and in the occupied Arab territories." It recalled that the talk about the plans to transfer the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Arab Jerusalem is part of the American veto, and is connected to a number of American-Israeli projects being planned within the scope of the so-called strategic cooperation agreement between them.

The paper referred to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement that he will not allow the United Nations to be a forum for public exposure of Israel, to whom he has offered absolute support, provided all kinds of weapons, financial and economic grants, and assistance.

The paper concluded its commentary by saying "it is worthwhile for those who complained about Israel to the Security Council to refrain from practicing such scornful attitudes so long as the United States with its veto power is always capable of hammering down the nails in the coffin of justice, and capable of destroying all logic — except justice for Israel and logic for Israel — and as for the others...let them drink the sea."

KUNA on Parliamentarians' Visit to PRC

LD071143 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 7 Sep 84

[By Hassan al-Sayegh]

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 7 (KUNA) — The recent visit of a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to China represents a milestone in relations between the two countries. The delegation, led by Speaker Mohammed Yusuf al-Adsani found that its week-long trip served to further consolidate links between the two countries, with Chinese officials showing keen interest in further developing relations, a fact which reflects Kuwait's international standing and distinctive non-aligned foreign policy.

The Kuwaiti parliamentarians were greeted on arrival in Beijing by Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's National Congress (parliament) Wang Rhenzhong and a number of Chinese MPs, as well as Kuwait's Ambassador in Beijing 'Abd al-Hadi al-Mahmid.

Al-Adsani was received the next day by Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang for friendly and sincere talks which focussed on bilateral relations, especially China's attitude to Arab affairs, notably the situation in the Gulf, the Iraq-Iran war and the Middle East question. The Kuwaiti parliament speaker also met in the Great Hall of the People with Chinese Vice-President Ulanhu to discuss economic relations and China's eagerness to develop mutual cooperation into other fields. The Chinese official praised Kuwait's achievements in all fields and its efforts to strengthen the basis of Arab solidarity.

The third day of the visit witnessed the start of formal talks between the parliamentary delegation and its Chinese counterpart, in which cooperation between the two legislatures was discussed, notably in the field of unifying their stances at the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Kuwaiti side praised China's role in Arab affairs, calling on Beijing to step up its efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, and to urge its friends to cease all kinds of aid to the country which refuses to halt the conflict. Later in the day, the delegation met the chairman of the Chinese parliament's Standing Committee Peng Zhen for an exchange of views on various issues.

During its stay in Beijing, the delegation visited the Great Wall of China and the capital's imperial palaces. The Kuwaiti visitors later moved to Shanghai and a nearby people's commune, a cooperative village where local officials explained the organization of the various agricultural and industrial facilities, including a garment factory which exported 20 percent of its output. The delegation also visited the new export-oriented industrial city of Shenzhen and one of the country's free trade areas set up to try to attract foreign investment as part of China's recent moves to open up its economy.

Kuwaiti parliamentarians said the seven-day visit to China had been successful in forging closer ties and giving the delegation a chance to gain a first hand impression of China and its leadership policy towards the Arab world.

QATAR

Press on Isolation of U.S. Lebanese Stand

GF081130 Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Doha, 8 Sep (QNA) — Two Qatari papers have expressed regret at the U.S. veto of a draft resolution at the UN Security Council calling on Israel to cease its inhumane actions in southern Lebanon.

AR-RAYAH says the U.S. veto has always been a sword brandished against Arab causes and primarily the Palestinian cause. In an editorial today *AR-RAYAH* says: The U.S. veto this time coincides with the feverish support for Israel on the eve of the "auction" of the U.S. presidential elections. The paper notes: A quick glance exposes U.S. thinking and calculations which show that all references to Arabs in President Reagan's election platform last week occupied only three lines, all of which were favorable to Israel. Reagan and Mondale vied with each other during a meeting of a Jewish club in Washington on 6 September in heaping praise on Israel. *AR-RAYAH* adds: The U.S. "auction" is politically multifaceted. Some U.S. congressmen are gathering signatures in support of a bill urging the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem — all of this for Israel's sake.

AR-RAYAH says the United States has exercised its right of veto against the Arabs eight times in the past 3 years, the latest of which is "the unjust veto" consolidating Israel as a fascist power in southern Lebanon that kills and destroys and tampers with everything under the protection of Wall Street democracy and an old statue carrying the torch of freedom for peoples.

In conclusion, *AR-RAYAH* quotes the words of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami: "The party that has the power to safeguard and defend the rights of peoples and international laws and conventions exercises the right of veto in defense of the tyrant against the victim of tyranny and in defense of the aggressor against the victim of aggression."

The English-language paper *GULF TIMES* says it is difficult to believe that the present administration in the United States can succeed, 2 months before the U.S. presidential elections, in going against the wishes of the Jewish lobby which has become so powerful that the Reagan administration could not just abstain from voting — despite the fact that Lebanon had watered down its draft resolution. The paper said the result of the Security Council vote is partially a victory for Lebanon and the Arabs because it shows that the United States alone opposed the draft resolution while all other Security Council members voted for it.

AR-RAYAH asserts that the Lebanese prime minister was right in condemning the United States action in preventing the Security Council from taking any step to protect the Lebanese people from the Nazi, fascist, and inhumane behavior of the Israeli occupation forces. *AR-RAYAH* expresses hope that the Lebanese prime minister's criticism will make Americans think, and says: While there is nothing new in a U.S. government taking such a stand — and the U.S. record is replete with blind support for Israel — yet one hopes that the Lebanese criticism will make the ordinary American citizen see that the U.S. Government stands alone in the world in taking such a stand. The paper adds: It is true that the American citizen may not be able to do anything to influence his government's policies at present, but who knows whether the situation will remain the same in the future?

SAUDI ARABIA

Interior Minister on Pilgrimage, Mecca Incident

GF071446 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister and chairman of the Supreme Pilgrimage Committee, has asserted that this year's pilgrimage plan was successful and its results very good. He expressed pleasure that the pilgrims were able to carry out the pilgrimage rites with ease and comfort. In a statement to the press, Prince Nayif said that all plans facilitating the performance of the pilgrimage will be operative, God willing.

The interior minister urged every citizen and pilgrim who has performed the pilgrimage once to give Muslim brothers who have not performed the pilgrimage the opportunity to do so. Prince Nayif referred to the regulation drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior regarding the position of Muslim brothers who are residents of Saudi Arabia and who wish to perform the pilgrimage and said the regulation was enacted in order to give an opportunity to those who have not performed the pilgrimage to do so. Prince Nayif expressed happiness at the cooperation shown by all pilgrims with the state apparatus concerned with serving pilgrims.

Referring to recent reports regarding the occurence of incidents disturbing the peace of pilgrims in the Mecca mosque, Prince Nayif said: This is not true — although there were irresponsible [ghayr mas'ulah] actions that took place outside the precinct of the Mecca mosque, these incidents were resolved at that time.

In conclusion, the interior minister prayed that God will accept the pilgrimage of all the pilgrims and that they will return home safely.

Ash-Sha'ir Criticizes Media 'Distorting Facts'

LD071359 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Muna, Sept 7, SPA — The Information Ministry held its annual banquet here last night in honour of information delegations which took part in the news coverage of the year's pilgrimage. The banquet was attended by Saudi Information Minister 'Ali ash-Sha'ir.

The function was addressed by Kamal Shatila, chairman of the Popular Conference of the Lebanese National and Islamic Forces, who hailed efforts which had been made by the government of HM King Fahd to make the pilgrimage a success and the development which the Kingdom had been making in all fields. He expressed his satisfaction with the new coverage of the year's pilgrimage and the facilities which had been made by the Saudi Information Ministry, at the directives of Ash-Sha'ir, to pressmen during their stay in the Kingdom.

It was also addressed by the head of the Algerian delegation, Mohamed Katoo, [spelling as received] on behalf of participating delegation, who extended his best greetings to HM King Fahd, Crown Prince 'Abdallah and Second Deputy Premier Prince Sultan on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. He praised the standard of services rendered to pilgrims during this pilgrimage to enable pilgrims to perform their rites in maximum comfort and ease.

The gathering was also addressed by Ash-Sha'ir, who reviewed the role of information in the Islamic world and how the media was divided into two trends. One is seeking to establish truth and the other is tugging in the opposite direction and misleading people and distorting facts. He urged pressmen in the Islamic world to be accurate in their reporting to rise to the level of responsibility and avoid partiality. "Brothers, I have not come here to advise you, it is a merely a talk from a brother to his brothers. We are attending a big Islamic conference, so let us consult and take action on what we should do for achieving our best interests and avoid what is not good to us." Ash-Sha'ir added. "Dear brothers hold high the torch of just and do not let the enemy put it off. The enemy is deploying its forces all around us and is casting doubts on our will and always is trying to give a bad image about us so let us be aware of this fact and keep on alert." Ash-Sha'ir said.

Saudi Defense Minister Calls on Chad's Habre

LD081727 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Jidda, 8 Sep (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, today at midday called on His Excellency the President of Chad Hissein Habre at his temporary residence. Bilateral relations and cooperation between the Kingdom and Chad and ways to strengthen them were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the following Chadian officials: General Secretary to the President Ahmad Karim Tuqa, Minister for Protection Against Natural Disasters Taher Abdeldjelil, Minister of Livestock Resources Taher Guinassou, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Karim.

U.S. Veto of Lebanese Resolution Criticized

AR-RIYAD Comments

GF080515 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Sep 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The United States has exercised its right of veto at the UN Security Council to prevent the adoption of a Lebanese draft resolution on Israel's arbitrary measures in Lebanon. *AR-RIYAD* comments on this topic: The result of the Security Council debate on the Lebanese draft resolution reveals many things. Lebanon put a great deal of effort into drafting the resolution to avoid a negative stand by the United States and other industrial countries. The Lebanese negotiator even abandoned a paragraph in the draft resolution calling for the dispatch of a UN fact-finding mission to southern Lebanon. By doing this, he won the votes of Britain and the Netherlands — which had earlier opposed this paragraph — for the draft resolution.

The Lebanese draft resolution also did not ask Israel to withdraw its forces and end its occupation of southern Lebanon. Such a call would have rendered debate impossible. Yet, although the draft resolution went on further than a verbal condemnation of Israel — and the files of the United Nations, and especially the Security Council, are full of such condemnations — the United States alone vetoed the draft resolution.

Veto Provokes Commentary

LD091133 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Sep 84

[News and comment by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] The United States' use of the veto at the UN Security Council against the Lebanese draft resolution criticizing the Israeli acts in the occupied areas of Lebanon has provoked indignation in Lebanon and the Arab world:

The United States' use of the veto against the draft resolution put forward by Lebanon to the UN Security Council, calling for an end to the inhuman Israeli practices in the southern areas of Lebanon, has not been a surprising move. All last week as the Council debated Lebanon's complaint, all signs indicated that any resolution blaming Israel would be vetoed by the United States, despite the fact that the other 14 members of the Council had agreed to the resolution that substantially did not go beyond the human aspects of the problem concerning Israel's isolation from the rest of the Lebanese homeland of the areas it occupied in the south, in addition to its violation of human rights in these areas.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami criticized the American veto, saying: There is no justification for a veto because the resolution called for an end to Israeli practices contradicting the international conventions that Israel itself has signed. Despite the fact that the United States tried to justify its opposition to the resolution, saying it intends to use what it calls realistic means to enable Lebanon to recover its territorial unity, in the opinion of observers such a justification will not help alleviate the indignation and pain caused by the veto and the fear that the American veto will encourage Israel to continue its policy of repression against the population of southern Lebanon and take further measures to increase the isolation of the south from the rest of the Lebanese homeland.

The draft resolution called on Israel to show respect to the rights of civilian citizens in the occupied areas and to comply with Article 4 of the 1949 Geneva Convention on treatment of civilians in wartime. But Israel, believing it is beyond punishment by the international community, steps up its repressive acts against the population of the southern areas in Lebanon by closing crossing points and roads, and by preventing people from moving between towns and villages. For these considerations, the fear of the Israeli reaction in the wake of the U.S. veto against the Security Council draft resolution is justified, now that there is a favorable opportunity for further grave acts, not only against Lebanon but through intensified Israeli pressure in the occupied areas in order to increase tension and prevent a resolution to the problems at the center of the conflict.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Receives U.S. Envoy

LD091339 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Jidda Sept 9, SPA — Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the first deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, received here today the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom Walter Kettler.

UAE

UAE President Accepts Invitation to Visit YAR

GF081125 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan has received a written message from YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message deals with current Arab developments in general and the situation in the Gulf region and the Red Sea. The message also includes an invitation to President Zayid to visit the YAR and participate with the Yemeni people in their celebration of the YAR national day and lay the foundation stone of the historic dam of Ma'rib, which is being rebuilt at his highness' own expense. The message was conveyed by Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi, YAR ambassador to the UAE, when President Zayid received him at the Guest Palace today. Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the president's representative, attended.

In a statement after the meeting Muhammad Hatim ash-Shawi said President Zayid has accepted the invitation to visit the YAR. He added: The visit will demonstrate the strength of fraternal ties between the YAR and the UAE in general, and between Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan and Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Our people are accustomed to receiving Shaykh Zayid as the greatest Arab leader in contemporary history who has played a great and effective role in giving political, intellectual, and material support to all Arab causes in a manner that is a model of nobility, modesty and self-denial.

Prime Minister Returns From Pakistan

GF091015 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Dubayy, 9 Sep (WAKH) — Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE vice president and prime minister, returned to Dubayy from Karachi this morning, following a private visit of several days' to Pakistan. Upon his return, he was received by Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid and a number of senior UAE officials.

AL-ITTIHAD Views U.S. Veto on Southern Lebanon

GF080810 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Sep (WAM) — Today's editorial in *AL-ITTIHAD* condemns the exercise by the United States of the right of veto in favor of Israel to bloc a Lebanese draft resolution at the UN Security Council — a resolution that condemned Israeli actions in southern Lebanon. *AL-ITTIHAD* calls for urgent Arab action for a rational, sound and frank confrontation with the United States "without being emotional, excited or afraid."

AL-ITTIHAD asserts that the U.S. veto illustrates that the United States is the only country supporting Israel in its aggression against the Arab nation. "The United States alone stood on Israel's side, while the whole world — represented by the other 14 permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council — stood on the side of justice, international legality, and international norms, despite the fact that the United States often talks about international legality and international law," the paper said.

AL-ITTIHAD links the U.S. veto to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's speech to the Zionist B'nai B'rith meeting on 6 September when he said U.S. aid to Israel next year will be a free grant and "he boasted that he has done for Israel what no other U.S. President has done in any economic, military, or political field."

AL-ITTIHAD recalls the statement by the U.S. State Department spokesman at the time Lebanon abrogated the 17 May agreement with Israel. The U.S. State Department spokesman had said: "Those who have abrogated the treaty must bear the responsibility of finding another formula that will lead to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon." *AL-ITTIHAD* asserts that the translation of this remark in the light of the U.S. veto entails a threat to the Arabs: "Either you accept peace on U.S. terms or wait for an Israeli peace of expansion and aggression."

AL-KHALIJ on Syrian Peace Role in Gulf War

GF091100 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 9 Sep (WAM) — In today's editorial, the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* affirms that Syria can play an effective role in the efforts being exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war. The paper adds that Syria, because of its special relations with Tehran, is capable of convincing the Iranian leaders that the continuation of the war will weaken its capabilities to confront the Zionist enemy and its allies.

The paper regards Iranian President Khamene'i's visit to Syria as a new opportunity to ask Syria to play a historic role in a situation requiring a hero. It has been proved that whoever exerts the main effort to end this war would indeed play a historic role, because most of the international sides and all of the anti-Arab sides, foremost of which are Israel and the United States, benefit from the continuation of this war.

The paper says that firm Syrian-Iranian relations are not only a means to end the war, but are also a means to formulate good relations between the Arab nation and Iran based on mutual respect and noninterference in the Arab and Iranian peoples' right of freedom of choice in matters related to their own domestic affairs.

In conclusion, *AL-KHALIJ* says the basis of joint cooperation between the Arabs and Iran is imposed by geographic factors. The possibilities for its success are furthered by the fact that they have the same religion and face similar challenges, as was noted by the Iranian president during his press conference in Damascus. In addition, the fact that the Arabs and the Iranians have a national duty to defend their resources, confront imperialism and achieve development, will contribute to the possibility of the success of any mediation aimed at bringing the two sides closer.

PDRY

Chairman Greets DPRK's Kim Il-song

GF091840 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, congratulated Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea and DPRK president, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the establishment of his republic. In the cable, he sent his warmest congratulations on his behalf and on behalf of the PDRY people, the YSP, and the PDRY Government. He wished him good health and happiness, wished the friendly DPRK people more progress and prosperity, and hoped that bilateral relations will develop in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

YAR

Minister of State Leaves for Moscow

GF081728 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali al-Bahr, minister of state, chairman of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Corporation, and member of the Standing Committee, left for Moscow today, leading a delegation on a visit to the Soviet Union. The visit will last several days.

In a statement to SABA' News Agency the brother minister said he is carrying a message from Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, to Nikolay Aleksandrovich Tikhonov, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers, dealing with bilateral relations and mutual cooperation between the two friendly countries. Brother al-Bahr added that during its visit to the Soviet Union the delegation will hold talks with a number of Soviet officials on various fields of cooperation between the two countries and on the means of consolidating them.

ATH-THAWRAH Decries Right of Veto at Security Council

GF080725 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT
8 Sep 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In its editorial today *ATH-THAWRAH* discusses the situation in Lebanon and the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council of the draft resolution calling for [words indistinct] in southern Lebanon. *ATH-THAWRAH* says: When Lebanon called for a meeting of the UN Security Council over a week ago to discuss Zionist actions in occupied southern Lebanon, political observers were aware at the time that the debate would be futile and there was more than one reason to force the Reagan administration to exert maximum efforts to abort all the initiatives of the permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council. [words indistinct] at a time when preparations for the U.S. presidential elections are taking place and when both the Republican and Democratic parties are [words indistinct] and the Reagan administration is very sensitive to anything that might disturb Tel Aviv. Therefore, it was strange that the U.S. representative at the United Nations had (?left) for a week and had provided an opportunity to other Security Council members to discuss the draft resolution and had not closed the door to such a discussion at the outset of the debate.

In any case, the United States has used its traditional weapon and exercised the right of veto to reaffirm for the thousandth time that its ally, the Zionist enemy, will not be subjected to anything that might hurt its feelings, as long as there is a U.S. Government in power. It foiled the Lebanese draft resolution despite the fact it was modest and confined itself to condemning Zionist actions in southern Lebanon.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The exercise of the U.S. veto on 6 September demonstrates to the international community the need to review the structure of the United Nations and to examine the paralysis that has weakened its charter as a result of the privileges enjoyed by the great powers. [words indistinct] reduce the effectiveness of the United Nations, undermine its prestige, and restrict its freedom to carry out its mission.

In conclusion, *ATH-THAWRAH* says: [words indistinct] the United States which helps the executioner in disposing of its victim. (?the right of veto) is one of the means enabling the United States to obstruct all concepts of peace. By its irrational and irresponsible stands the United States has emasculated the United Nations, undermined all concepts of justice and legality, and annulled all the articles and provisions of the UN Charter. Therefore we say: It has become necessary for the Third World to (?seek) the democratization of the United Nations instead of asking it to solve its problems and arbitrate in its political and economic affairs.

Ghali Denounces U.S. UN Veto on Lebanon

NC081905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1837 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening from Paris following a 1-day visit to France.

Dr Ghali stated after his arrival that the second conference of Nile valley states, which was held in Kinshasa and which Dr Ghali attended, discussed the importance of cooperation in all fields among the states which belong to the Nile valley group. Dr Ghali said that during his stay in Kinshasa he met with Zairian President Mobutu and handed him a written message from President Mubarak. He also held talks with the Zairian foreign minister. Dr Ghali said that tomorrow he will submit a detailed report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of his visits to Kinshasa and Paris.

Dr Ghali denounced the U.S. use of the veto against the Security Council draft resolution concerning the Israeli practices in southern Lebanon. He said this U.S. stand contradicts the international community's opinion and is inconsistent with the international organization's desire.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that the Angolan president's visit to Egypt tomorrow expresses the friendly relations between Egypt and Angola and the importance of Egypt's African and international position.

Ghali Holds Talks With France's Cheysson

For Cairo reportage on the trip to France by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, including his discussions with French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson, see the France section of the 10 September Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

AL-AHRAM Denounces Al-Qadhdhafi Financial Offer

NC072057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA) — The Cairo newspaper *AL-AHRAM* denounces Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's latest offer to buy Egypt's political conscience and make it, with the temptation of money, give in and take measures that will necessarily infringe upon its national sovereignty and its exclusive right to make its own fateful decisions.

In its Saturday editorial, *AL-AHRAM* says that this offer means one of two things: Either the colonel has never before heard of Egypt's rejection of scores of previous offers and temptations, a matter which condemns him of a list of accusations not the least of which is feigning ignorance; or that his evil nature has reached a point of self-delusion that makes him imagine that he can do what the others could not do, considering himself the only unique great leader capable of doing what he wants by using the gold and terror to humiliate others. The paper says both points show political foolishness and narcissism in a person who regrettably leads an Arab people who are afflicted with him. Concluding its editorial, the paper says that all the Egyptians now know from experience how to safeguard their homeland from the follies of the ignominious.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Current Issues

NC091531 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has reaffirmed that Egypt seeks to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. He also reiterated Egypt's support for all efforts to establish peace in the area.

In an interview with the Voice of America, the foreign minister said that Israel's activities in recent years — the invasion of Lebanon, establishment of settlements on occupied Arab territory, and its practices there — do not conform with the desire to establish peace in the area.

'Abd al-Majid expressed hope that the new Israeli Government will take steps toward withdrawing from Lebanon, thus enabling Lebanon to restore its sovereignty over all its territory. He also hopes that moves will be made regarding the Palestinian problem and the Tabah issue in order to ease tension in the area.

'Abd al-Majid stressed in his interview that Egypt supports all attempts to establish peace in the area. He hopes that the new Israeli Government will appreciate that peace does not serve the interests of the Arab states and the Palestinian people alone but serves the interests of the Israeli people as well. 'Abd al-Majid explained that there are many Israelis who want peace and stability, reject war, and want an end to the current tension. He hopes that the Israeli peace movement will become active and emerge from its present stagnation.

Regarding Egyptian-Arab relations, 'Abd al-Majid expressed his satisfaction over their development and his optimism over the future. He said Egypt belongs to the Arabs and the Arabs belong to Egypt.

[Words indistinct] 'Abd al-Majid said the Red Sea is a waterway which is very important to world trade and communications among states and that the Suez Canal has made Egypt the link between the East and West. He added that the Suez Canal is very important strategically and economically not only for Egypt but also for all the world states. The foreign minister added that Egypt has contacted some of the Red Sea littoral states and that the Sudanese Government has called for convening a conference of Red Sea littoral states in order to hold consultations and coordinate actions to ensure the safety and security of the Red Sea in the common interests of these states.

Regarding the conference of the foreign ministers of the Mediterranean nonaligned littoral states, which will convene in Malta, the foreign minister said the Middle East and Palestinian problems will top the agenda. He added that the conference will discuss the Cyprus problem on the basis that Cyprus is a nonaligned state and as such the problem occupies the attention of the nonaligned states. 'Abd al-Majid further said that discussions will deal with what can be done to achieve coordination among the Mediterrenean states, strengthen peace in the area, and promote relations among these states.

'Abd al-Majid Leaves for Malta Nonaligned Conference

NC081536 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid left Cairo for Rome enroute to Malta this afternoon to attend the Mediterranean littoral nonaligned states' foreign ministers conference, scheduled to be held there on Monday, the day after tomorrow. The 2-day conference will discuss cooperation and security in this region.

In a predeparture statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the conference was called for by the coastal states that attended the nonaligned summit in India in 1983 in order to coordinate and discuss all their common issues. He said that many Arab states will take part in the conference, adding that the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue will top all other issues during the discussions. It will be an opportunity for a large number of Arab brothers to meet and discuss all these issues. The conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said, will also discuss the Cypriot problem and bolster cooperation among the Mediterranean littoral nonaligned states, preparatory to holding the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference, slated to be held in New York in October.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the Mediterranean littoral nonaligned states' foreign ministers conference will also discuss a draft declaration containing the various positions of the states. He pointed out that he will study this declaration to define Egypt's position on it by submitting amendments or proposals.

Regarding the ministerial conference of Red Sea littoral states, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the working paper submitted by Egypt at the Khartoum conference aims at securing navigation through the Red Sea. He affirmed that Egypt is one of the states most interested in keeping the Red Sea free and open to all states.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that before his return to Cairo he will meet with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti to discuss issues of interest to the two countries.

Reportage on 1-Day Visit of Angolan President

Dos Santos Arrives

NC091033 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA) — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos arrived in Cairo at 1230 today on a 1-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. The delegation accompanying the Angolan President on this visit includes seven senior advisers. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, is heading the honorary delegation, which will escort the Angolan President.

Meets With Muburak

NC091116 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1048 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep 84 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos held a session of talks this afternoon. These talks were held after the official reception that was given for the Angolan president in the Al-Qubbah Palace.

The talks were confined to the two presidents, and touched on African issues of interest to Egypt and Angola, the bolstering of existing bilateral relations in all domains, and the situation in the southern part of the African Continent.

Ghali Comments on Talks

NC091420 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the official talks between President Husni Mubarak and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos dealt with the issue of the OAU and the need to beef up the organization. Dr Ghali said that the talks also touched on other important African issues and the need to resolve African disputes by peaceful means. He added that the two president discussed bilateral relations and the means to promote these relations in the trade, economic, and technical spheres. Dr Ghali said the Foreign Ministry's development fund will send a group of Egyptian experts to Angola as part of the cooperation exchanged between the two countries.

Continuing his statement, Dr Ghali said there is strong cooperation between Egypt and Angola in the diplomatic field. This is quite true in their support for the issue of Namibia and for the need to implement resolution No 435 which calls for holding a referendum in Namibia and for achieving the withdrawal of South African forces from it. Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt is in constant contact with Angola with regard to assisting SWAPO, which represents the people of Namibia, for the sake of independence.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will also discuss the preparations made thus far concerning the convocation of the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference, scheduled to be held in the Angolan capital in 1985.

Dos Santos Departs

NC100855 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0838 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA) — Angolan President Eduardo Dos Santos and his accompanying delegation left Cairo for Paris this morning at the conclusion of his 1-day state visit to Cairo, which was made at President Husni Mubarak's invitation. The Angolan president was given an official farewell at the Al-Qubbah Palace, where Mubarak headed those who bade dos Santos farewell.

Hijacked Iranian Plane Lands, 52 Passengers Escape

NC081717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1711 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA) — A hijacked Iranian plane landed at Cairo International Airport this evening. Negotiations are currently taking place between the Iranian plane hijackers, believed to be two Iranians, and Major General 'Umar Hammad, commander of the central region.

It has been learned that there is one wounded person on board the plane, and he is expected to be moved to the armed forces hospital in Al-Ma'adi.

During negotiations with Egyptian officials, the Iranian plane hijackers asked that a ramp be brought to the plane to enable a wounded passenger to disembark. After the hijackers' request was met and the plane door was opened, 30 passengers rushed out and landed on the tarmac. Security authorities surrounded the passengers who landed from the plane. The negotiations are still going on between the hijackers and Egyptian authorities.

Twenty-two more passengers of the hijacked Iranian plane have been able to get off the plane, bringing the total number of passengers who rushed out when the plane's door was opened to 52. Among those who were able to get down from the plane are 11 women and 13 children. These passengers were moved to the first class lounge at the airport under strict guard.

It has been learned that 76 people remain on board the hijacked Iranian plane. Cairo Airport authorities have given them dinner.

A MENA correspondent has met with two of the passengers of the hijacked Iranian plane, who are currently staying in the first class lounge at Cairo Airport. (Mahdi Qashqai), an employee of the Iranian customs department, and Mrs (Shahlah Zirabur) said that there are three hijackers on the plane: One was carrying a pistol, the second a hand grenade, and the third a knife. The two Iranians said that the three hijackers belong to Shahpur Bakhtiar's group, the last prime minister during the shah's regime, who is currently residing in Paris.

They also said that two of the hijackers stayed inside the pilot's cabin while the third stayed with the passengers. The two Iranians reported that the hijackers informed the passengers that there are six of them. They said that there were 114 passengers on the plane in addition to its 9 crew members.

Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of tourism and civil aviation, has issued a statement about the hijacked Iranian plane in which he said: An Iranian Boeing 727 plane this evening requested to land at Cairo international airport. This took place at 1920 today. The plane was on an internal flight in Iran when it was hijacked. The plane was diverted to Bahrain and then to Cairo. The Egyptian authorities allowed the plane to land for refueling and in order to provide humanitarian services to some of the women and children passengers in the plane.

The airport authorities fulfilled their humanitarian duty toward the children and women passengers in addition to providing basic services such as food to about 52 people in view of the long trip. The crew asked to rest for some time before the plane takes off again for an unknown destination.

This took place without violence and with the observance of all Egyptian principles and rules, and without any side incidents. After basic services were provided to the plane and its passengers, it was left to them to decide to which destination they want to proceed.

MENA has learned that an Iranian plane will arrive at Cairo airport tomorrow morning to carry the 52 passengers who had succeeded in getting down from the hijacked plane at Cairo airport.

MENA also has learned that the hijacked Iranian plane will take off with the remaining 62 passengers and 9 crew members at 0600 tomorrow for an as yet unknown destination.

Passengers Ask To Return Home

NC101231 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA) — An International Red Cross representative today met the passengers of the hijacked Iranian plane who had stayed at Cairo Airport to ascertain their well-being and to find out their demands. The 52 passengers asked to return to Iran.

The statement came 24 hours after an Iranian police lieutenant, a couple and their two children surrendered to the Iraqi authorities after the adults hijacked an Iran Air Boeing 727 during a domestic flight on Saturday.

An Iraqi spokesman, interviewed by telephone, said his government had granted asylum to the latest hijackers as well as to two Iranian youths who seized an airbus on August 28 and two Air Force officers who defected aboard a Phantom F-4 jet two days later.

The spokesman said the 66 passengers and crew of the Boeing 727 had left yesterday for the Shi'ite holy cities of Karbala' and Najaf, southwest of Baghdad.

He said the passengers were to tour religious and tourist attractions, after which the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad would give them the choice of going home, staying in Iraq or going to a third country.

Meanwhile, diplomats in Cairo said the Swiss airline Swissair was receptive to suggestions that it repatriate to Iran 52 of the Boeing's passengers who managed to escape during a stopover on Saturday.

The sources said negotiations on "technical problems" were still going on between the Iranian and Egyptian authorities through the Swiss Embassy which has looked after Iranian affairs in Cairo since the shah's fall from power.

Cairo Airport was today having to contend with the return from Mecca of some 4,000 pilgrims aboard special Saudi and Egyptian jets. Special arrangements had to be made to accommodate an Iranian or Iran Air charter before it could land, the sources said.

Saddam Husayn Chairs Cabinet Meeting 8 Sep

JN081158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA) — President Saddam Husayn presided over a Cabinet meeting this morning. During the meeting, which lasted 4 hours, the Council of Ministers discussed a number of educational, health, and legal subjects which were on its agenda and adopted the necessary decisions. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, a number of RCC members, the director of the presidential office, and the ministers.

Saddam Receives Saudi Official, Message

JN101106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1002 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA) —President Saddam Husayn today received Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, personal envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and minister of education. Al-Khuwaytir brought a message to Saddam from King Fahd dealing with bilateral relations and the current developments in the region.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the president's secretary.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 9 Sep

JN091642 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this evening on a visit that will last several days. He was received by Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the RCC's bureau for liberation movements, and the director and members of the bureau.

Confers With Husayn

JN101108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad today. They discussed the strong Iraqi-PLO relations and the situation in the region. The president affirmed Iraq's support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also stressed the need for concerted Arab efforts to foil the plots that are aimed at interfering in the internal affairs of the Palestinians and affecting their independent decisionmaking.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad, attended the meeting.

'Aziz, Gromyko Exchange Cables on Anniversary

JN081145 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Baghdad — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Andrey Gromyko, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and foreign minister, have exchanged congratulatory cables on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the Soviet union.

In his cable, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the existing relations between our two friendly peoples and countries have made large strides along the road of progress and prosperity since the exchange of diplomatic representation between the two countries, which was crowned by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1972 — a treaty which we consider a solid basis for the promotion and consolidation of these relations. Tariq 'Aziz expressed his confidence in the importance of these relations and their role in deepening ties between the two countries, adding that these ties will witness further development in various fields for the good of the two friendly peoples and countries, and in the interest of world peace and security.

In his cable, Andrey Gromyko stressed that Iraqi-Soviet relations, which made large strides toward development, have been characterized by fruitful cooperation and mutual benefit. He said that the two sides' efforts to continuously bolster these relations are based on the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation that was signed in 1972. He said: We are confident that bilateral relations will also develop successfully in the future for the good of the Iraqi and Soviet peoples.

Deputy Premier on War, Khark 'Siege', USSR

LD081318 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Sep (KUNA) — A high-ranking Iraqi official said in an interview published here today that Iraq wants peace. However, it works on the premise that its war with Iran will last for a long period.

In an interview published by the Kuwaiti *AL-WATAN* , Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan announced that Iraq will initiate a siege on the Iranian Khark Island after the completion of the necessary conditions and requisites for that.

Mr Ramadan described the continuing war between his country and Iran since September 1980 as "the peak of a grand plot against Iraq, whereby all the cards were exploited at one go; starting with the Kurdish card to the sectarian card to the instigation of groups and subversive cliques within to the economic presure practiced by the companies." "It is the first time of coordination and concord between the circles hostile to Iraq and to the Arab nation," he added.

The Iraqi official expressed his appreciation of and satisfaction with the attitude of the Arab Gulf countries vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war. However, he said "we hope for complete Gulf cooperation including Iraq for achieving greater Arab unity."

Mr Ramadan said of the Iraqi nuclear program that the strike at the Iraqi reactor by Israel in June 1981 "has delayed the Iraqi peaceful nuclear program. However, it has intensified Iraq's determination to continue the implementation of its program through various lines."

Ramadan described relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union as improving continuously. He said that his recent visit to Moscow "laid new foundations for relations with the Soviet Union, and that they are participating in various projects whose value exceeds $2 billion and in a manner and with concessions befitting Iraq's present circumstances."

The Iraqi official criticized exaggerated reports about Soviet and French experts working in Iraq. He said: "The experts present are not undertaking any extraordinary work in the plans and the fighting and their position does not differ from all the experts that are in other countries for training in modern weapons and equipment."

Ramadan said that work is proceeding to build three new pipelines to export Iraqi oil to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. He added that "the commissioning of these lines will take place at different times."

Concerning the implementation of Iraqi threats to destroy Khark Island, which is considered as the major Iranian oil terminal, Mr Ramadan said "this matter is linked to a number of factors where at times of war the military capabilities interlock with political circumstances and therefore we deal with this issue thus. Some time ago we imposed a siege on the island, and the president announced that this siege will develop....however, why this development does not take place now...there are prerequisites and we do not hide that the prerequisites about which we are talking need some time to be completed...and this is also connected with our move, as Iraq or as Arabs, through the seven-member committee, to contact the countries dealing with Iran, not only militarily but also economically."

After Mr Ramadan noted Iran's continuation of the war as a result of the availability of money and, consequently, arms through other countries' purchases of its oil, he said: "So, the countries that are marketing Iranian oil in large quantities are making hard currency available for the rulers of Tehran to continue the war. The countries taking part in the meetings of the seven-member committee have placed the countries dealing on a large economic scale with Iran on the same level as those countries that supply Iran with arms." "On this basis," he added, "the new move started, and whenever Iraq finds a development in the situation, it deals with these developments, whether they were at the Khark front or any other front, in a manner that serves peace and serves the halting of the war and without hesitation, because all of this falls within the calculations of the war."

'Large' Maritime Target Attacked 10 Sep

JN101020 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Taste ye then the penalty, because ye rejected faith. [Koranic verse]

Affirming the ability of our heroic Armed Forces to continue their blockade of Khark Island and the other Iranian ports, a successful air strike was carried out at 1045 [0645 GMT] today against a large maritime target south of Khark Island. The target was directly hit and all of our daring aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

Thus, the soldiers of the victorious leader Saddam Husayn affirm that they are always capable of inflicting losses on the evil aggressors. Victory comes from God.

[Dated] 10 September 1984.

Armed Forces Command Issues Battle Communiques

Shelling of Ash-Shihabi Noted

JN071622 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1603 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Communique No 1,581 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 7 September 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their defense of Iraqi territory against the enemy and the evil Khomeyniite designs. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and for today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions, artillery concentrations, and enemy engineering personnel in the operational

sector east of Basra, destroying two engineering vehicles, one hardware stockpile, and one heavy-caliber machine gun.

2. Our forward units dealt blows to an enemy troop concentration and several enemy positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing three, wounding many, and destroying one vehicle, one hardware stockpile, one observation post, and one infantry position whose occupants were killed.

3. Escaping the tyranny of the frustrated Khomeyniite regime, new groups of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

4. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

5. The criminal enemy last night shelled Ash-Shihabi and a civilian area in Basra's suburbs, damaging one civilian car in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 September 1984

'Groups' of Iranians Defect

JN081639 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Communique No 1,582 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 September 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high conviction in defeating the rapacious aggressors and realizing further victories over their frustrated forces, Iraq's valiant forces are continuing their brave operations at the front. The results for last night and today were the following:

1. New groups of Iranians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the front after escaping the oppression and tyranny of the ruling Iranian criminals. They were all safely evacuated to the rear. In another area of this sector, one of our forward units engaged a number of enemy troops and positions, killing three and destroying one infantry position. Those manning the position were also killed.

2. One of our forward units in the central sector pounded an enemy concentration opposite its positions. Six enemy soldiers were killed, one infantry position and one heavy machine gun were destroyed, and one hardware stockpile was blown up and burned.

3. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded enemy engineering equipment and some of its machinery and weapons emplacements east of Basra, scoring accurate hits. Two personnel shelters and one excavator were destroyed and fire broke out in several enemy positions.

4. Last night, the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled a civilian area in Al-Basrah Governorate, injuring a child.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 September 1984.

Tank Destroyed

JN091618 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Communique No 1,583 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 September 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continue to strike at the forces of the spiteful Iranian enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units fired on several enemy positions and weapons emplacements in the operational area east of Basra, starting several fires and destroying three infantry positions and one machine gun, with those manning them killed. Elsewhere in the same area, one enemy tank was destroyed by antitank guns. It was seen burning with smoke billowing from it.

2. One of our forward units fired on a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the operational theater, killing two and wounding others.

3. Fresh groups of Iranians, fleeing the hell of Khomeyni and the persecution of his criminal regime, sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

4. One was killed and one infantry position and one machine gun were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. One enemy observation post was destroyed in the operational area east of Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 September 1984

Navy Commander on Readiness To Aid Gulf Countries

JN090647 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA) — The commander of the Iraqi Naval Force and Coastal Defense has stated that the Iraqi naval forces are ready and capable of supporting Arab Gulf countries in defending Arab waters and pan-Arab interests.

In a press statement here today, the commander of the Iraqi Naval Force and Coastal Defense said that the naval forces' capabilities at present are far better than at any time before and that they are capable of inflicting the heaviest losses on the Iranian Navy if it attacks any Arab country.

He stressed that the Iraqi siege on Khark Island and the Iranian ports on the Arab Gulf will continue to stifle the Iranian economy. He added that during the past 4 years of the war, the Iraqi Navy has hit and destroyed 180 hostile vessels.

King Husayn To Visit USSR in Early October

LD101220 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] London, 10 Sep (KUNA) — The paper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* says here today that King Husayn of Jordan will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union early next October.

Quoting unspecified Jordanian officials, the paper says that King Husayn will hold "intensified talks" with the Soviet leaders focusing on the situation in the Middle East in light of the announcement of the Soviet initiative calling for the convening of an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. It says that the talks will also embrace "economic and military" cooperation between Amman and Moscow, and that Jordan is planning to sign a deal for sophisticated arms with the Soviet Union. The paper says that an agreement was reached on the broad lines of this deal during the visit paid by the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Za'id ibn Shakir, to Moscow at the beginning of last August.

The deal involves a network of antiaircraft missiles, sophisticated radar, and other military hardware.

Friendship Delegation Returns From USSR

JN091206 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — President of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society Bahjat at-Talhuni said Saturday that the Soviet leadership appreciates the firm political stand of Jordan and its endeavours for bringing about a comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr. at-Talhuni was speaking upon returning to Amman from a visit to the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation to attend festivities marking "Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Days" and to meet with Soviet officials.

Mr. at-Talhuni said that his talks with senior officials in Moscow revealed an identity of views between Jordan and the Soviet Union with regard to international issues in general and the Palestine question in particular.

Mr. at-Talhuni, who is also a member of the Upper House of Parliament, visited the Uzbekistan Republic and other Soviet regions and cities at the inviation of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society.

The Jordanian delegation held talks with leaders of local communities and Soviet officials on ways to develop Jordanian- Soviet relations and on the Palestine issue, along with other international questions Mr. at-Talhuni said.

During the meetings, Mr. at-Talhuni said he expressed Jordan's gratitude to the Soviet Union for its support for Arab causes and the Soviet officials voiced their appreciation for Jordan's support for Moscow's call for an international conference on the Middle East.

One of the officials the Jordanian delegation met was Mr. Bayken Ashimov, vice-president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, who reviewed Jordanian-Soviet relations and reiterated Moscow's call for a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In Moscow, Mr. at-Talhuni met with the chairman of the Asian-African Solidarity Committee and with other officials with whom he discussed issues pertaining to world peace and the Middle East.

Other cities on the itinerary of the Jordanian delegation were Tashkent, Samarkand and Bokhara. Mr. at-Talhuni said that the delegation visited the Tashkent Mosque where they prayed with the local community and where delegation member Jum'ah Hammad made a speech underlining the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Arab peoples.

The delegation members included 10 other members of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society apart from Mr. at-Talhuni and Mr. Hammad.

Iceland Premier Arrives for Liberal Meeting

JN092032 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Iceland Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson arrived in Amman this evening to take part in the liberal international meeting to be opened tomorrow under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent.

He was met at the airport by the court minister, Mr 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Italian Foreign Minister Postpones Visit

JN100955 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* has learned that the Italian foreign minister has postponed his visit to Jordan, which was scheduled to take place in the middle of this month, to a later date.

The Italian minister was planning to visit Saudi Arabia during this tour.

Cabinet Discusses Economic Relations With Egypt

JN091500 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Amman, 9 Sep (PETRA) — The Council of Ministers held a session today under Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

The Council discussed a number of topics on its agenda and adopted suitable decisions.

It decided to form a committee consisting of a number of competent under secretaries to study the bases of developing economic and trade relations with Egypt and to prepare for the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee to be held next month.

Officials Deny Intention To Devalue Currency

JN091214 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Sep 84 pp 1, 21

[Muhammad Abu Ghawsh dispatch]

[Excerpts] Amman — Two ranking Jordanian officials have denied that Jordan intends to devalue the Jordanian dinar as part of the proposed solutions for encouraging Jordanian exports.

Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry, trade, and tourism, said that the question of a devaluation of the dinar is not being discussed at all. He added: I completely oppose this idea.

Dr Muhammad Sa'id an-Nabulsi, Jordanian Central Bank governor, said that monetary stability is a basic factor and an important cornerstone of Jordan's monetary policy. Dr an-Nabulsi stressed that there are no circumstances in the current Jordanian economic situation which call for even thinking about such a devaluation. Dr an-Nabulsi added that rumors about a devaluation of the dinar have surfaced on more than one occasion in Jordan and abroad, and that recently unncessary attention was given to this topic. He added that he does not want to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of devaluation, but that this issue is usually discussed in a country which suffers from a deficit in its balance of payments. He stressed that Jordan's balance of payments has not suffered a deficit during the past 8 years, except for 1982, which suffered a deficit of approximately 50 million Jordanian dinars and which ended in the following year.

Dr al-'Anani and Dr an-Nabulsi were responding to a question put forth by Dr Yusuf Dhuhni on the devaluation of the dinar as one of the solutions for encouraging Jordanian exports at a financial seminar recently organized by the Jordanian Banks Association conducted by 'Abdallah al-Maliki, president of the Jordanian Banks Association and editor in chief of the banking magazine.

Al-'Anani on Economic, Financial Problems

JN091717 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 84 p 2

[Excerpts] Amman, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Industry, Trade, and Tourism Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani has said that there has been a clear decline and retreat in Jordan's economic productivity and that studies show that worker productivity in big companies has not reached the required level despite the increased capital of these factories and establishments. He added: There is an obvious shortage of qualified administrative personnel, especially in the fields of marketing and financial management, and a feeling of loss as a result of low demand for Jordanian exports. This is due to the large quantities of goods that exist in many shops and factories as a result of excessive imports and production unaccompanied by a similar ability to export.

Dr al-'Anani, who was speaking at a seminar recently held under the slogan "A Look Into Jordanian Economy and Future Prospects," said that there has been a retreat in the size of government projects in building. In 1983 the total cost of government projects under construction amounted to 830 million dinars, but in 1984 the cost dropped to 600 million dinars. In the construction sector, between 150 and 160 million dinars were spent. This means that as projects are implemented, new projects are not being undertaken.

Dr al-'Anani also said that the results of what is happening in the commodity market can be summed up by saying that there is a certain stability in prices, and a clear lag in economic activity, pointing out that the phosphates company was the only company able to increase exports and production during the current year through contracts worth some 5 million dinars.

Dr al-'Anani also disclosed the existence of some sort of "currency trap" within the financial market as a result of individuals' behavior in this market. He also said that the stock exchange was the only national entertainment during the sudden boom and that people began to amuse themselves in the hope of achieving profits.

Dr al-'Anani called for allocating 40 million dinars for activating the economy, supporting agricultural production and imports, and reviving the local contracting sector and other sectors that are considered a burden on the national economy.

He added that Jordan's economy will be able to recover if some simple measures are taken, because it does not suffer from an acute defect, pointing out that selective measures should be taken by the government to increase exports and get rid of existing inventories in the factories.

He also expressed optimism about the ability to overcome the financial stagnation, because the whole problem is an administrative and economic one.

He said: Our problem is not so significant as to cause panic, because the basic challenge to the developing countries is monetary in nature.

Minister on U.S. Stand at Security Council

JN091317 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Amman — Tahir Hikmat, minister of transportation and acting information minister, has said that the U.S. stand at the Security Council session on the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and the U.S. veto against simple demands which call for mitigating the yoke of occupation of innocent people, came as new evidence of Washington's continuing support for Israel in all its violations of the international norms and laws, a practical implementation of the strategic agreement, and an assertion of the collapse of U.S. credibility.

This also shows complete U.S. bias against all Arab people and its support for and blessing of all Israeli practices.

In his statement, Hikmat added: We believe that this U.S. stand reinforces the Jordanian viewpoint, which we have always announced, which calls for the participation of all effective forces in the world to overcome Israel's intransigence which is supported by the United States.

Dailies Criticize U.S. Veto on Southern Lebanon

JN090850 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Sep 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Veto, a U.S. Message to the Arabs," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: It was not at all surprising for the United States to use the veto at the Security Council against the draft resolution on Israel's inhuman practices in southern Lebanon. The United States used its veto despite the fact that this draft resolution is the least that the United Nations can do regarding what is taking place in Lebanon, where the Zionist military authorities are practicing the ugliest forms of Nazi and fascist practices.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: The use of the U.S. veto was not directed against Lebanon, the weak and vanquished country, as much as it was directed against all the Arab countries and developing nations that are deemed weak. It is a clear message that there is no hope for anyone who attempts to object to the existing alliance between the United States and Israel. Moreover, the U.S. veto is a warning to the Arabs that they must accept the U.S. peace, which stems from the framework of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, or give in to the Israeli peace which is based on expansionist ambitions and aggressive tendencies.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: Israel's continuing threats of further expansion in the Arab land necessitate an urgent Arab action at the highest level without fear or hesitation. This is because it has become clear that the conflict over intrinsic interests and regional polices are no longer viable in regard to the balance of the aggressive alliances that confront our Arab homeland. Moreover, the delicate method of confrontation is merely an imcompetent, weak, and cowardly way of confronting the realities and the fateful challenge that is represented by the continuing, aggressive alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv against the Arab nation's interests, its resources, and even its cultural existence.

Under the headline "The New U.S. Veto," *AR-RA'Y* says: The United States has added another negative practice to its policy in the region by using the veto, with which it aborted the Lebanese draft resolution at the Security Council — a draft resolution that was a reminder of the fourth Geneva Convention and a call to Israel to abide by this convention in dealing with citizens in occupied southern Lebanon.

AR-RA'Y asserts: The new U.S. veto is ultimately a blessing for the aggressive Israeli practices there. It is a green light that prompts Israel to continue these practices and keeps Israel safe from any international criticism. Consequently, the United States has employed the veto that it enjoys to entrench and protect aggression. Moreover, the United States has once again proven that its policy in the region is not worthy of respect and that its claim that it is concerned with establishing peace and stability in Lebanon is a flagrant lie.

Under the headline "Renewed Support for Transgression," *AD-DUSTUR* says: By using the veto, the United States has premeditatedly chosen to support Israeli transgression and champion aggression and occupation, thus flouting international concensus in a manner that can only be described as deep scorn for all human principles, to which the United States itself claims it adheres and defends.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: When the U.S. representative at the Security Council used the veto during the voting on the draft resolution that called for ending the Israeli repressive measures in southern Lebanon, and when Washington even rejected a formula that avoided calling for sending an international fact-finding mission to southern Lebanon, then this can only be regarded as an open declaration of hostility toward the Arabs and an encoruagement for aggression and continued occupation. This reveals the blind U.S. bias toward Israel and its expansionist policies in the region.

JORDAN TIMES on 'Growing Frustration' With U.S.

JN090920 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 84 p 4

[Editorial: "The Veto Warrants Answer"]

[Text] Rashid Karami, the Lebanese prime minister, echoed the feeling of every Arab in denouncing the U.S. veto Thursday of the Security Council draft resolution on Israeli practices in south Lebanon. But no Arab can simply be satisfied with verbal denunciations of American policy in the Middle East any more. To counter that "shameful attitude" by the U.S. in defending "fascist, inhuman and Nazi" Israeli tactics in Lebanon's occupied south, as indeed elsewhere in the other occupied territories, we need to energise more than our tongues. Time for taking real action against both the U.S. and Israel is long overdue, we believe.

What could be done to make Washington understand the folly of its behaviour in supporting the enemy so totally and unthinkingly? What measures could we take to prevent the ultimate showdown with the two strategic allies, the U.S. and Israel, that looms so hopelessly close to bursting, if nothing is immediately done to avoid it? Is there any kind of a political approach that we have not yet tried with America to make it accept common sense and the dangerous consequences of its policies, without the need to resort to other means of dealing with that country? Or has all sensible talk become so pointless that a totally different course of action is now urgently warranted.

These questions are for the Arab leaders to answer. We want to hear from them, however, why the U.S., despite its proven enmity towards us, is still allowed to boast of itself as the only superpower the Arabs turn to in times of crisis. (See what Robert McFarlane said in a television interview two days ago as an example). We want to understand why any Arab state should need to explain itself to the Americans over a unity accord with another Arab state, when the U.S. is itself associated with Israel in no smaller degree than a Catholic marriage. We want to know why Arab countries have not yet tried to curb imports of U.S. goods into our huge and profitable markets. We want to learn why billions of Arab money still feed Americans business and trade, when a good deal of this money is fed back to the Israeli economy and war machine which is daily used to threaten our very existence and national identity. We want explanations of how we continue to rely upon America for development and technology, when Washington tells us almost every week that it wants the Zionists to always have an edge over us.

We want much more from our leaders; but, above all, we need from them to understand that the growing frustration of the Arab masses with the U.S. and its policies in our region is fast bordering on desperation and hopelessness.

Absurd is this American justification that the U.S. veto was designed to facilitate an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon. A justification much worse than the guilt itself, an Arab would call it.

Gone should be the time when an American veto of a purely-humanitarian Arab cause could be forgotten or forgiven. We have to be ready with an answer.

Islamic Jihad Threatens American Interests

NC080931 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Beirut, Sept 8 (AFP) — The Moslem terrorist organisation, Islamic Jihad, today said it would strike very shortly at "a key American interest in the Middle East" in reprisal for the latest U.S. policy towards Lebanon.

In a telephone call to a foreign news agency here, a man claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad said its members were prepared to sacrifice their lives to destroy an American or Zionist institution, even of seondary importance.

"We now have more sophisticated methods than booby trapped cars and lorries", the caller said, adding that Saudi Arabia was also concerned by the threat.

He said President Ronald Reagan's administration had demonstrated its "contempt" for Moslems on Thursday when it vetoed a Security Council resolution submitted by Lebanon which called on Israel to show strict respect for the rights of civilians in southern Lebanon.

(All the other 14 Security Council members supported the resolution.)

The caller also accused Israel of being "in league with the American intelligence services" of being responsible for a car bomb attack here on Wednesday believed to have been aimed at the Lebanese Sunni Moslem Chief Shaykh Hasan Khalid and Education Minister Salim al-Huss.

Islamic Jihad has claimed several major terrorist attacks including that of October 23, 1983 which killed 244 U.S. soldiers in Beirut.

Birri on U.S. Veto, Cabinet, Orders Israeli Attacks

Veto 'Victory for Lebanon'

NC081752 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, has described the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council as a political massacre that prevented a people under occupation from seeking help. In a statement made today, Minister Birri said: The complaint in itself was a Lebanese defeat because of its weakness, but the U.S. veto has turned it into a victory for Lebanon and for the national resistance against the supporters of verbal resistance.

Minister Birri added: The UN General Assembly should reconsider the question of the veto right given to some so-called great and big states. He said: I promise not to request a recourse to the UN Security Council until equations and balances change.

To Boycott Cabinet Sessions

NC091126 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, has stressed his insistence on reopening the coastal highway to the south and he has declared that there will be no complaints to the UN Security Council as of now.

Speaking at a rally in Hayy as-Sullum today, Birri said: We want the security plan to start from the Al-Awwali, not an inch away from it. We want the plan to begin from the south so that we can confront Israel. We do not want to fight the Phalangists, but the Israelis' agents.

Minister Birri wondered about the attempt to assassinate Minister al-Huss. Is it because they want sectarian sedition. We know by name who attempted to assassinate him. He added: They have exceeded the limits when they attempted to kill Salim al-Huss. They exceeded the limits with me, at least, and I will never remain silent.

Minister Birri said that he will not go to any Cabinet session as of now, but that he will go to ministerial conclaves at which the south will be the basis of discussion.

'Suicide Attempts' Against Israelis

NC091414 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The southern suburb today marked the first anniversary of the martyrdom of several of its sons during the uprising that followed the mountain war. The suburb's inhabitants staged a massive rally which included a token military parade and which was attended by Amal movement leader Nabih Birri; his eminence Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan; and Fu'ad Salman, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Party.

In a speech delivered on this occasion, Nabih Birri stressed that the attempt on former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' life exceeded all acceptable limits. Birri also said he will boycott Cabinet sessions and will not participate in any ministerial side meetings that are not mainly devoted to the issue of the south. Birri accused the official national security organ of attempting to assassinate Al-Huss, saying that the person responsible for the assassination attempt is called Mansur and that he should be dismissed.

Birri underlined his alliance with Walid Junblatt and the patriotic forces and pledged to continue unveiling the stands of the regime and the Lebanese Forces. Birri added that the Amal movement will fight against everyone linked with Israel. He also said that Israel will withdraw from the south and that he has issued orders to carry out suicide attempts against the Israeli forces.

Birri disclosed that the official organs have not so far supplied him with the names of those tampering with the dollar market in order to protect the magnates of the Lebanese Forces. Birri saluted the national resistance in the south and the martyrs of the mountain, the suburb, and Beirut. He also stressed that the attempts to drive a wedge between Amal and Al-Murabitun and between him and Walid Junblatt are doomed to failure.

RFL: Sham'un Says U.S. Veto 'Expected'

NC081340 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1330 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Excerpt] [Former] President Camille Sham'un said the American veto against the Lebanese draft resolution in the UN Security Council was expected but that nevertheless it created a feeling of resentment towards the U.S. Administration among the Lebanese.

Comments on Birri Remarks

NC092045 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Commenting on Minister Nabih Birri's speech today, [former] President Camille Sham'un stressed the need to convene the Cabinet sessions because three-quarters of the country's vital issues are dealt with by the Cabinet.

Birri had declared at a celebration held in Hayy as-Sullum [in West Beirut] today that he will not participate in any Cabinet sessions from now on but will attend ministerial conclaves which primarily discuss the south.

[Ja'farite] Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, who participated in the celebration, criticized Minister Walid Junblatt and said he wished Junblatt would lead what he described as the march to liberate the coast, because the opening of the coastal road will be in the interests of the Druze, Sunnite, Shi'ite, and Christian.

KUNA: Skaff Says Syria 'Serious' About Solving Crisis

LD071451 Kuwait KUNA in English 1103 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 7 (KUNA) — Intensive political contacts and consultations started here Friday in preparation for implementing issues agreed on by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and his Syrian counterpart Amin al-Jumayyil [as received] at their summit meeting in Damascus early this week.

Lebanese information minister and acting interior minister Joseph Skaff told KUNA he believes the recent meeting between President al-Asad and al-Jumayyil is different from the previous three summits because decisions adopted in that meeting have been motivated by expected regional and international developments and the relapses witnessed on the Lebanese arena in the past two months.

Skaff expressed belief that the Syrians are serious and determined to assist Lebanon with the aim of solving the Lebanese crisis in the earliest possible opportunity.

A source close to the nationalist Islamic ministers in the government of Premier Rashid Karami told KUNA that the Al-Asad-Al-Jumayyil summit had stressed the implementation of already approved political and security agreements and that the political reform dossier should now be opened.

Karami Meets Al-Jumayyil, Makes Statement

NC081225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami made a statement a few minutes ago after his meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, at which they appraised political and security solutions to achieve the state's effective and capable role. Karami said a date will be set for future steps for comprehensive solutions at the Cabinet's upcoming session Wednesday [12 September]. Prime Minister Karami answered a journalist's questions as he left the Presidential Palace:

[Begin recording] [question indistinct]

[Karami] We reviewed the reasons for the current developments in Lebanon with the president. Our views were in agreement on the need for a serious discussion of the required solutions to present security and political questions. This subsequently calls for beginning ministerial meetings to deal with all these issues so that we can agree on an integrated program in order for state institutions and departments to be reactivated, thereby achieving the state's effective and capable role. We hope that at its upcoming session the Cabinet will set a date for these meetings, upon which we attach great hope for arriving at comprehensive and integrated solutions.

[Unidentified reporter] Before these meetings, Mr Prime Minister, the press noted the positive atmosphere of the Lebanese-Syrian summit between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad. Can the results of this summit be translated into practice in the field before these ministerial meetings?

[Karami] There is no doubt that the relations between Lebanon and Syria always stem from their joint interest. We feel assured that Syrian support for the salvation process is firm and effective. This is an opportunity in which we must utilize all these resources and possibilities for serving the sublime national Lebanese interest. We earnestly seek to translate all these into practical steps, be it at the security or the political level, as I said.

[Reporter] Can we expect these steps to be implemented in the field soon?

[Karami] We hope so.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, in regard to the U.S. veto, what will Lebanon do in order to deal with the situation in the south, particularly with regard to the Israeli practices?

[Karami] Our complaint was made from a purely humanitarian viewpoint in order to put an end to these abnormal practices. We consider that what happened at the Security Council in practice might be useful in enlightening world public opinion about the real situation from which the citizens under Israeli occupation are suffering. The U.S. stand, by exercising the right to veto a humanitarian resolution and by breaching international charters and laws, in fact affects the U.S. side more than the Lebanese side. In light of all this, the Lebanese Government will pursue a course that will serve the citizens of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. We will earnestly seek to draw up the security arrangements in order to enter into talks to oust the occupier from our territory. This is the least that can be expected.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, some information media today reported that a Syrian envoy will visit Beirut. May we know if this is true?

[Karami] I read this report in the press as you did. I have no information about this.

[Reporter] In regard to your answer about the south, Mr Prime Minister, can it be assumed that contacts will begin soon about security arrangements in the south?

[Karami] I cannot define a time period or date, but we are earnestly seeking this. We hope to achieve this as soon as possible. [end recording]

Meets With Al-Murabitun

NC081115 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rashid Karami devoted his attention today to dealing with the security situation. He held several contacts with security officials to acquaint himself with reports from various areas. At 1100 today, Karami received a delegation from the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al Murabitun, including Nuhad Urfali, Muhammad Qulaylat, and ‘Atif al-Durubi. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon, particularly in West Beirut, and current efforts to consolidate security there.

Arrives in Tripoli

NC081816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived in Tripoli at 1820 tonight aboard a military helicopter which landed at the Tripoli international fair grounds. Upon arrival, the prime minister met with Military Committee member Colonel Faruq Agha, who briefed him on developments in Tripoli.

Prime Minister Karami met later with Captain Samir as-Sulh, commander of the judicial detachment, who explained to him the security situation in Tripoli.

Senior Iranian Officials Inspect Ba‘labakk Positions

Revolutionary Guard Commander

NC080951 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] The commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, who accompanied Iranian President Khamene‘i to Damascus, inspected Iranian gunmen's positions in Ba‘labakk this morning amid strident security measures. A Syrian delegation escorted the Iranian official.

The Voice of Lebanon meanwhile has learned that Hezbollah members are leaving Ba‘labakk in large numbers for fear of Syrian raids. This is particularly true since the Syrian forces deployed heavily throughout the city and near the Shaykh ‘Abdallah Barracks and Al-Khawwam Hotel, where Hezbollah gunmen are stationed. Severe tension prevails there.

RFL: President Khamene‘i Visits

NC081254 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Iranian President Khamene‘i today visited Ba‘labakk in Lebanon's Al-Biqa'. He left the area some time ago. Earlier today, the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard also visited Ba‘labakk. He was accompanied by a joint Syrian-Iranian delegation.

Khamene‘i Denounces U.S. Veto

NC081410 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 345 GMT 84 Sep 84

[Text] Iranian President ‘Ali Khamene‘i left Syria this afternoon without disclosing his new destination. According to reports from Al-Biqa', Khamene‘i visited Ba‘labakk City this afternoon amid stringent Syrian security measures and news blackout on the visit. Other reports say that the senior Iranian official who visited Ba‘labakk this afternoon is Shirazi, commander of the Iranian ground force.

Iranian President Khamene‘i had declared in Damascus that Iran's policy on Lebanon is clear and that the Lebanese forces must work for the expulsion of Israel from Lebanon.

During his reception of a delegation of ulema from Ba‘labakk, Tripoli, and some Beirut clergymen, the Iranian president expressed his denunciation of the U.S. veto against the Lebanese resolution at the Security Council. He criticized U.S. policy in the area, saying it is unjust, unacceptable, and based on aggression.

VOAL: Khamene'i Visit Denied

NC090552 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] A Lebanese diplomatic source has denied reports made yesterday by well-known information media that Iranian President Khamene'i visited Ba'labakk. The source pointed out that it was the Iranian Army Land Forces commander, Colonel 'Ali Seyyed-Shirazi, who visited the Al-Biqa' area where he met with revolutionary and Hezbollah officials.

Visits Denounced

NC081944 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Security reports indicate that troop concentrations and vehicular movements were spotted in 'Aytat and Kayfun tonight.

In another development, today's visit to Ba'labakk by the commander of the Iranian revolutionary guard and the commander of the ground forces has been met with extreme indignation because the visit constitutes a violation of Lebanese sovereignty. Observers believe that Foreign Minister Karami should have lodged a complaint at the UN Security Council against Iran similar to that lodged against Israel.

Mufti Khalid Meets With Iranian President in Damascus

NC081948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Mufti Hasan Khalid returned to Beirut tonight after a lightening visit to Damascus during which he met with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i and reviewed with him the conditions in Lebanon.

Discussing the visit, Mufti Khalid said: In response to the noble desire of Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to meet with us, which was conveyed to us by the Iranian charge d'affaires, I went to Damascus this morning where I met with the Iranian president for more than 1 hour. Our discussions centered on two important points, namely, the current bloody dispute between Iraq and Iran and the ideological intrigue and plots which are being concocted against the united Islamic rank in Lebanon.

Mufti Khalid added: We stressed to his excellency that the enemy continues to work cunningly to further drain the Islamic and Arab forces in the area on the economic, human, psychological, social, and cultural levels. All this contradicts our Islamic course which requires us to ensure the unity of the Islamic stand and rank, to confront all plots being concocted against us and to strengthen our common Islamic fate and aims. The meeting was good and we hope it will have effective and positive results on the course of events in Lebanon and the area.

Shi'ite Leader Meets With Khamene'i in Damascus

NC101149 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, returned to Beirut this morning from Damascus, where he met with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i at the latter's official invitation. During his meeting with Khamene'i, in the presence of the accompanying Iranian delegation, a long discussion took place on the Lebanese situation in general, Lebanon's unity, and Lebanon's liberation from the Israeli occupation. Shams ad-Din also held a round of talks with the members Iranian delegation, which dealt with various Lebanese and Islamic affairs and the existing situation in southern Lebanon.

Junblatt in Damascus for Talks With Khaddam

NC090605 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Beirut and Damascus will deal with sensitive aspects of the [security] situation in the mountain in the next few days preparatory to implementing the security plan which the Cabinet may approve at its session this coming Wednesday [12 September] if the expected military contacts between the Lebanese and Syrian sides are held.

It has been observed that the Syrian capital had yesterday summoned Minister Walid Junblatt — who visited Damascus for the fourth time in 1 week — for talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

It has also been noted that Junblatt has stopped his verbal escalation but that his gunmen have started the military escalation in the mountain and in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Junblatt Speaks on Mountain Battle Anniversary

NC091003 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Leader of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Walid Junblatt — accompanied by PSP popular mobilization commissioner Anwar al-Fatayiri, Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, Major Raja' Harb, Hisham Nasr ad-Din, and N'aim Ghannam — has toured the villages of Ash-Shahhar to offer condolences to [relatives of the] martyrs who have fallen in the liberation battles, and who have been victimized in the massacres that were perpetrated by the regime's army and by the fascist forces.

Walid Junblatt made an important speech in which he saluted the heroes of western Ash-Shahhar, most notably the commander of the Ash-Shahhar combat line, Martyr Bahjat al-Hakim.

Among other things, Junblatt said in his speech: It was not easy for us to make the decision to confront the regime's army and the Phalangist forces in Ash-Shahhar. However, it was necessary. We made the confrontation decision in association with our comrade and ally Nabih Birri. The historic statement was issued in Damascus, and we waged the battle and triumphed on the mountain. Then, we invited all the party leaders to notify them of the decision. These leaders were headed by Martyr Captain Bahjat al-Hakim. They were notified of the decision and they did not hesitate to implement it. Then too, we waged the war on the mountain and we triumphed. However, Ash-Shahhar fell when the cheap agents raised their voices, saying that we had bargained over Ash-Shahhar in return for other areas. Afterward, we returned to Ash-Shahhar victoriously and we avenged. While I say these things, the conspiracy continues. We will provide a peaceful settlement with all opportunities. However, we fully realize the dangers that surround us. We also understand the intentions of the Phalangist regime.

Public Works Minister on Relations With Junblatt

NC080631 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Joseph al-Hashim, minister of posts, communications, health, and social affairs, has said that he is not responsible for the instability of his relations with Minister of Public Works Walid Junblatt. He declared his full readiness to talk with all Lebanese leaders on ways to save Lebanon.

In an interview published in the English language newspaper *THE DAILY STAR*, Al-Hashim said that the differences with Junblatt are not ideological but are caused by the massacres committed against the Christians in the mountain, the motive of which is the establishment of a Druze canton.

Minister al-Hashim said that the vacuum created by Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil's death has prompted the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist leaders to further rally around Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and the Phalange Party in a strong union because Shaykh Pierre's absence made everybody realize the responsibility he had and to accept the challenge.

He affirmed that the coming days will prove that the Phalangists are united with the Lebanese Forces.

He said that he supports the policy of cooperation with Syria because President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil is dealing with the Lebanese crisis in its most serious phases with wisdom, acumen, sincerity, and patriotism.

Al-Hashim said: I declare to all that we are fully prepared to reopen the coastal highway. Those demanding the reopening of this highway must open it between Khaldah and As-Sa'diyat. We guarantee to open the highway from As-Sa'diyat up to Al-Awwali. We have no objection to this. I assume full responsibility for this statement. Let the Progressive Socialist Party allow the Lebanese Army to advance toward As-Sa'diyat and I guarantee to open the road in 24 hours and to hand over our positions to the Lebanese Army.

Answering a question about the dealings of the Phalangists with Israel, Minister al-Hashim said: Those accusing the Phalangists of dealing with Isrel are themselves deeply involved in this. I will not name them because the Lebanese people know them.

Islamic Unification Leader Sha'ban Visits Damascus

Departs From Tripoli

JN080829 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] It has been learned in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, that Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has left for Damascus, accompanied by Mohammed Levasani, secretary general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

It is believed that this visit to the Syrian capital is part of Tehran's efforts to put an end to the current conflict between the Islamic Unification Movement and the Arab Democratic Party and, if possible, to reconcile the two warring factions.

Mohammed Levasani arrived in Tripoli upon the instructions of Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, who is trying to reconcile Shaykh Sha'ban and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party.

Comments on Visit, Situation

JN082008 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli, Lebanon, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus — date not specified; recorded]

[Text] [Faris] You are here in Damascus at the head of a delegation from the Islamic gathering [al-liqa' al-Islami]. How has this visit come about and what do you expect to realize from it?

[Sha'ban] The visit took place at the invitation of His Excellency Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, who sent a delegation from his Foreign Ministry to invite us. We responded to this invitation out of our coviction that this meeting is necessary because consultations among Muslims may greatly help them to realize their aspriations both for stability in their countries and for joint actions that may alleviate their suffering as a result of the pressures put on them by their enemies in the Arab and Islamic regions.

[Faris] How is the Tripoli situation these days?

[Sha'ban] Praise be to God, the cease-fire has been almost perfect since the last agreement in Damascus, when our delegation was here. We hope that the situation will steadily improve, until a full cease-fire and reconciliation are reached.

[Faris] The leadership of the Arab Democratic Party is also in Damascus. Will there be any meeting between you and them?

[Sha'ban] No meeting between us has taken place so far. However, we are ready to meet with any party with which we can cooperate in solving the city's problems.

[Faris] How do you evaluate Prime Minister Rashid Karami's recent proposals and solutions?

[Sha'ban] We are cooperating fully with Prime Minister Karami. We are presenting all conditions that would promote our wishes to realize peace, security, and reassurance in our city. We hope that Karami will support us in realizing these common wishes.

[Faris] Do you approve of the security plan in terms of deploying the Army and collecting arms?

[Sha'ban] We said that we approve of this, but we hope the security plan will succeed in the areas in which it has been implemented. Beirut has not rested since the plan was implemented. The attempted assassination against Dr Salim al-Huss was a serious indication in this direction. Reports about differences rife among the disputing parties in Beirut prove that the security plan has so far not been able to realize its objectives or to achieve security in Beirut itself.

[Faris] What about Syria? What are your relations with Syria?

[Sha'ban] We have always stated that we consider Syria to be our ideological, geographic, and historical meeting place. We cannot do without our Syrian brothers at any time, because we are regarded as one nation. Lebanon is an integral part of Syria. Colonialism divided us. We hope that perfect unity will be established among Lebanon, Syria, and the other Arab states, as God wants.

[Faris] Do you mean that there are no problems between you and the Syria side?

[Sha'ban] We affirm that we have never been hostile to the Syrian brothers in any of our statements or stands. We also hope that the Syrian brothers would reciprocate this attitude with us, so that the problems of Tripoli and of Lebanon as a whole will end and Lebanon will be reunified, as we have always wanted it to be.

[Faris] Does your movement contribute in one form or another toward liberating southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation?

[Sha'ban] Yes, we extend humble contributions to our brothers in the south. Many youths from the Islamic gathering are carrying out operations against the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon. When Tripoli ends its security problems, we hope that we will be able to recruit many youths, collect arms and equipment, and carry out our holy duty so that we may preserve our country from the Israeli colonialist ambitions.

Meets With Al-Asad

NC091133 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] It has been learned that Sa'id Sha'ban, Islamic Unification Movement leader, who was due to return to Tripoli from Damascus today, has postponed his return in order to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

It was reported that Al-Asad today reaffirmed that Syria supports the current efforts to bring about peace in Lebanon and the efforts to achieve a national reconciliation in Tripoli. This affirmation came when President al-Asad received a delegation from Tripoli today. The delegation includes religious ulemas and some delegates, including Sa'id Sha'ban, Walid 'Akkawi, Malik 'Allush, Hashim Munqarah, and 'Abdallah Babitti.

Christian Official Asks for IDF Help in Al-Kharrub

NC091035 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Special information available to the Voice of the Mountain says that Pierre Yazbik, the Jerusalem representative of the Lebanese Forces, has recently intensified his political contacts with the party officials of the two major blocks, the Likud and the Alignment. He also held a series of meetings with staff officers of the Israeli Defense Ministry. The same information notes that Yazbik has asked the Israeli leaders to intervene in the Iqlim al-Kharrub area and to strengthen the role of the Lebanese Forces in this area following the increasing exodus from Christian villages, particularly from Mazra'at ad-Dahr, Al-Mtullah, 'Ayn al-Hawr, Al-Julayliyah, and Al-Jiyah.

It is worth noting at this point that this morning the Israeli radio said that some 800 Christian residents of Iqlim al-Kharrub left their homes toward the end of last week and headed for the Sidon area. The radio added that Israeli officers together with commanders of the Christian militias sought to calm down the situation and to cool tempers after some problems arose between the Phalangist command and residents of the Christian villages because of the increasing reinforcement of forces in their villages.

Phalange Party To Elect New Leader 13 Sep

NC071446 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The Phalange Party Political Bureau will elect a new party leader to succeed the late Pierre al-Jumayyil on 13 September. The Political Bureau met at noon today under the chairmanship of Dr Elie Karamah and discussed general developments. The bureau welcomed the appointment of Joseph al-Hashim as minister, assessed the results of the recent Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting, and reviewed the preparations for commemorating the anniversary of the martyrdom of President Bashir al-Jumayyil on 14 September.

Phalange Party Deputy Leader on Current Situation

PM071034 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Sep 84 p 8

[Interview with Elie Karamah, deputy leader of the Phalange Party, by *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What is the Lebanese Phalange Party's role today in the light of currents events?

Answer: The Phalange Party will continue the march of national action upon which it embarked in 1948 and which is based on clear principles of defending the Lebanese cause, democracy, and the freedom of communities within the Lebanese homeland. We reaffirm that the party continues its policy of openness toward all the Lebanese factions, the policy in which it believes in order to reach proper solutions. The Phalange Party also wishes to reaffirm its policy of openness toward all the Arab countries for the sake of Lebanon's interest and on the basis of mutual respect, dignity, and concern for the independence, sovereignty, and freedom of every country, provided that such openness, whether on the internal or external level, does not mean selling out our cause.

Question: The Phalange Party raised the slogan 10,452 square kilometers [reference to total area of Lebanon], but more than two-thirds of Lebanese territory today is not under the control of the legitimate authority and its forces. How does the party view the restoration of these territories and bringing them under national sovereignty?

Answer: We have not retreated in defending the Lebanese cause. We uphold Lebanon's internationally recognized borders and belive in a regime based on national coexistence. As to how this can be achieved, now that this new government has been formed, which represents a certain success for the regime, our daily work must be based on political action rather than military action. There should also be good relations with Syria and mutual confidence between the two countries that would serve the common political, security, and economic interests of both countries. This would lead, within a reasonable period of time, to the restoration of legitimacy and sovereignty over all the Lebanese territory.

With regard to Israel, this depends on an international situation that would prevent the occurrence of some "provocations" entailing reactions harmful to Lebanon's interests. Therefore, there is a need for quiet action free from the recklessness which in the past 20 years has brought disasters and calamities which cost Lebanon very dearly. Some people did not heed our warnings and the Lebanese Government's cautions that recklessness and playing with fire in the south could lead to its occupation and seizure. This was what actually happened.

Question: Since the abrogation of the 17 May agreement the government has been looking for alternative security arrangements with Israel, but Lebanon in facing developments that are not conducive to making security arrangements or bringing about an Israeli withdrawal from the south, such as the stealing of Lebanese waters, the closure of crossing points, and other such Israeli actions.

Answer: Some actions which were seen as patriotic or nationalist have caused reactions in the south that were detrimental to its inhabitants. An example is the closure of the Al-Dubayyah [Israeli liaison] office, which had adverse consequences. We hope that we will not indulge in outbiddings that would make things worse in the south. If we want to regain the south from Israel it is imperative to take wise, intelligent, and brave action. This is self-evident. The objective is to restore the south.

Question: Does the Phalange Party still adhere to the 1943 formula for today's Lebanon, or does it support some other formula from among those proposed by the various Lebanese parties?

Answer: We are now in the process of reshaping the party's ideology, particularly with regard to the patriotic and nationalist view. We still believe in the formula of coexistence within Lebanon's 10,452 square kilometers. As for the means to achieve this, it is to accept the plurality of the Lebanese community, the principle endorsed in the 1943 formula. This is a basic matter that should be accepted by all the parties. Every Lebanese community has its own aspirations, features, and characteristics which the other communities should respect and accept within such respect. There is also the question of guarantees, on which we still insist, particularly with regard to guarantees for the Christians and their future. The 1943 formula has already given such guarantees at the central government level. Now these guarantees, which are essential for the Christian presence — which has been under threat in the past 10 years — must be revised. In any case, guarantees do not necessarily mean privileges. Indeed, every party must secure its rights. Today there are certain changes in the Lebanese reality, particularly on the demographic level. This situation opens the door to a decentralized regime that is not contrary to the 1943 formula. I believe that decentralization could be one of the guarantees that should be given to the Christians. What is needed is to find the means that would ensure real coexistence among all the Lebanese and would give them the necessary and equal guarantees.

Every Lebanese party must abandon the idea of dominating or controlling Lebanon because in an atmosphere of suspicions and doubts fears will increase rather than decrease, which will lead to the destruction of Lebanon.

Question: What role can the Arab countries play in providing guarantees for the Christians?

Answer: There is no doubt that we live in the midst of an Arab and Islamic world which can provide guarantees on the local level which could be regional or international guarantees. Certainly, the Arab world has a major role to play. It sympathizes with the Muslims but it can give reassurance to the Christians in Lebanon and protect the formula of free and civilized coexistence that exists on this land and which is unlike the formulas being proposed for Lebanon.

Question: Some people accuse the Phalange Party of domination. What is your answer to such an accusation?

Answer: This is an unrealistic accusation. Domination of what? The state? These are only attempts at blackmail. On the contrary, some people in the party believe that the Phalange Party's relations with the state are not as they ought to be. One of our Phalangist comrades has reached the presidency. We are proud of this. But he has resigned all his party responsibilities. It is natural for the president who emerged from the Phalangist school, and from Pierre al-Jumayyil's school in particular, to have nationalist views that agree with the party's nationalist views, particularly with the idea that Lebanon's 10,452 square kilometers belong to all the Lebanese. We support the president's actions and the nationalist course he is pursuing, but we do not consider ourselves to be the ruling party in Lebanon. Under the Lebanese political system he is the head of the state and the president of all the Lebanese. We are neither the ruling party nor the dominating party. But our rights as a party that is strong and influential in shaping Lebanon's destiny have preceded the assumption by a Phalangist comrade of the highest post in the state.

Lahd Says South Army To Double in 1 Year

NC071506 Paris AFP in English 1503 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Marj 'Uyn, Lebanon, Sep 7 (AFP) — Retired Lebanese General Antoine Lahd, who heads the Israeli-backed army of south Lebanon (ASL), today said he would double the numbers of his Christian-dominated troops and have the Israeli-occupied region under control within a year.

From his home near ASL headquarters here in central south Lebanon, the relaxed, grey-haired general said his 2,500 men were not enough to keep order in south Lebanon and the west Al-Biqa' Valley.

"I need 5,000 men and I will have them within a year because I am recruiting an average of 200-300 soldiers a month," he said.

But he would fill the vacuum left by Israeli withdrawal, whenever it happened. "I am the only armed force in south Lebanon," he said.

The ASL was set up, armed and largely financed by Israel.

"I will not allow the Lebanese Army to enter south Lebanon as long as the Lebanese Government has not reached agreement with the Israeli Government and there is very little chance of it doing so as it is a [word indistinct] of the Syrians."

Gen Lahd considers himself an auxiliary of the Lebanese state here in the south. "I am helping the Lebanese state because I look after its institutions in south Lebanon and I am ready to take in Lebanese Army soldiers who want to join my army after resigning," he said.

The ASL is financed by taxes on the population and Israeli aid, he said. A young recruit receives 1,800 Lebanese pounds (300 dollars) monthly. He believes it is only normal that Israel contributes since their aims are the same: "The maintenance of order in south Lebanon."

Moslem hostility does not worry Gen Lahd. "I have 40 percent of Moslems in my ranks and I work in the interests of all the people of south Lebanon," he said.

He admitted that nearly all the attacks on Israeli troops and installations were carried out by Lebanese, but he said many of the attackers were paid. "A section acts out of conviction, but in general it is excited youths aged between 14 and 16."

"During the six months I have been in south Lebanon, I have not had any deaths and only six wounded," he said. On Wednesday Israeli military sources said an ASL soldier had been killed in Sidon.

He said he had stepped in to try to stop the Israelis fencing off an area along the Al-Wazzani River. "I will not allow Israel to annex an inch of Lebanese territory or to divert a drop of the waters which flow in south Lebanon, except when Lebanon and Israel cooperate," he said.

Israel Raids Palestinian Position in Bhamdun

NC100552 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Israeli planes this morning raided Palestinian positiosn in Bhamdun. The Israeli military spokesman said that the 3-story terrorist base that was raided was used as a center for the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] led by Nayif Hawatimah. The Israeli pilots reported accurate hits.

VOL: Commander Reportedly Killed

NC100935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Security sources reported that Abu Hasan, commander of the artillery battalion of the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group in the mountain, was killed and a number of persons were wounded when an arms depot exploded after being directly hit by a rocket in the Israeli air raid. The security sources added that the raid lasted 5 minutes and that the Israeli planes used machine guns in addition to rockets.

In Damascus, a spokesman for the dissidents [the Abu Musa group] said that a member of the movement's militia was killed and 3 persons were wounded in the Israeli raid on a movement position in Bhamdun.

VOL: Israelis Remove Al-Wazzani Springs Installations

NC080516 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Observers in the Lebanese south say that the Israelis have dismantled the installations which they had erected around the Al-Wazzani springs. The Israeli Army has removed the iron poles which had been installed around the springs along a distance of 1200 meters.

French Observers To Deploy on Beirut-Mountain Road

NC091504 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The chairman of the French Observers Commission in Beirut today announced that the French observers will soon take up positions between Beirut and the mountain. Well-informed sources said that preparations are underway to set up an observation post in Sibnay similar to the post which was erected in Ash-Shuwayfat yesterday.

Colonel Michel Fleutiaux, commander of the French observers, visited Kafr Shima yesterday and inspected the area to define the observation posts where the French observers will be positioned.

Minister al-Huss Leaves Hospital 7 Sep

NC080556 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Minister of Health Dr Salim al-Huss left the American University Hospital for home in Ad-Dawhah last night after recovering from his indisposition because of the 5 September criminal assassination attempt on him.

The attempt was denounced and condemned by various political and spiritual leaders who viewed it as an attempt to strike at Lebanon and the nationalist and Islamic ranks.

Minister al-Huss will spend some time at home to recuperate at his doctors' recommendation before resuming his official duties, perhaps on Monday.

Several leading figures visited Al-Huss in hospital to congratulate him on his escape from the treacherous attempt, which took place on the morning of the blessed 'Id al-Adha feast near mufti of the Republic Hasan Khalid's residence in Ar-Rashah. Minister al-Huss received telephone calls and cables from various groups congratulating him and denouncing the ugly criminal attempt.

Further on Visit of Iranian President Khamene‘i

IRNA Details Continued Talks

LD071803 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept, 7, IRNA — Official negotiations between Iran and Syria were followed up here today in the presence of the two countries' presidents. Also attending one such meeting were high-ranking Syrian officials including Vice President ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar‘ as well as Iranian Foreign Minister ‘Ali Akbar Velayati and Hojjat ol-Eslam Do‘aie, member of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Majlis.

Discussed at the meeting was Iran's plan for expelling the Zionist regime from the United Nations and an overall campaign against Zionists by progressive Muslim forces in the region on which the two sides reached a basic understanding, said a spokesman for the Islamic Republic delegation.

President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria declared in this round of the negotiations that his country agreed with and supported Iran's plan, said the spokesman.

Also reviewed were ways to counter the recent conspiracies of the United States such as the Red Sea mining, which is viewed as a pretext for its military presence in this strategic and sensitive waterway. Washington's laying of the foundations of a project to form a military treaty among some subservient countries of the region as a supplement to the presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, the Indian Ocean, Red Sea and the Suez Canal were also discussed.

Among other important issues discussed in this session which was held in a totally friendly atmosphere were the efforts of subservient and reactionary countries for returning Egypt to the Arab fold and bringing it out of isolation resulting from its disgraceful signing of the Camp David treaty. President ‘Ali Khamene‘i of the Islamic Republic and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria both shared identical points of view on the ways to counter these conspiracies, said the spokesman.

Gulf War Discussed

LD081552 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept 8, IRNA — Iran's President ‘Ali Khamene‘i said here Saturday that he and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad shared common views on the world issues and especially on the necessity for ousting the Quds occupying regime from the United Nations. Khamene‘i who was talking to reporters at the Iranian Embassy here today said that Syria and Iran have held an identical stand in relation with the Iraqi imposed war. He said Syria had never opted to mediate between Iran and Iraq in relation with the war because Iran and Syria have all along agreed upon the fall of the ruling government in Baghdad as being the only possible solution for ending the war.

The Iranian president told reporters that he had discussed with Syrian officials issues of the region including the plight of the Muslim peoples in the occupied areas and that they had identical outlooks about those issues.

Asked by one reporter about Iran's attitude towards the United Nations, Khamene‘i said the Islamic Republic of Iran does not recognize a veto power for the United States or any other government at the United Nations and considers such a thing as a gross injustice and a token of the inclination of those powers to hector and bully other nations. He said the Islamic Republic maintains that the U.S. policies in the region are based on the denial of the natural rights of the peoples of the region.

IRNA: Velayati, Khaddam Confer

LD071646 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept 7, IRNA — Foreign Minister ‘Ali Akbar Velayati of the Islamic Republic today met and conferred with the Syrian Vice-President ‘abd al-Halim Khaddam. During the meeting which was held simultaneously with a meeting of the Iran-Syria presidents, Dr Velayati called the pitting of Shia and Sunni Muslims in Lebanon against one another among the U.S. conspiracies in the region and stressed the necessity of unity of Muslims for campaigning against the main enemy of Muslims, that is the Zionist regime. The Syrian official also described the visit of President ‘Ali Khamene‘i as very significant in light of the situation in the Arab region.

Iranian Commander, Talas Meet

GF090650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] According to our correspondent in Damascus, Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi, the commander of the land forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, who is accompanying President Seyyed ‘Ali Khamene‘i to Syria, met General Mustafa Talas, the deputy prime minister and defense minister of Syria. Various issues were discussed, including the nature of the joint struggle of Iran and Syria against the Zionists and ways to expand this struggle.

Religious Leaders See Khamene‘i

LD071633 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept. 7, IRNA — A group of ulema of Ba‘labakk and Al-Biqa‘ Districts of Lebanon met and conferred with President ‘Ali Khamene‘i of the Islamic Republic at the Iranian Embassy here today. A report was given to the president on the situation of Muslims of Lebanon especially the deprived and occupied southern Lebanon, as well as the political-social situation of this region.

President Khamene‘i spoke to them on the necessity of short and long-term plannings to campaign against the Zionist regime which he said is the greatest enemy of Muslims. He also emphasised the need for greater solidarity and unity of Shia and Sunni Muslims and ulema. Present in this meeting were Foreign Minister ‘Ali Akbar Velayati, presidential advisor, Mostafa Mir Salim, and Majlis Deputy Hasan Shahcheraghi.

IRNA: Khamene'i Meets Mufti

LD091143 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept 9, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday urged further unity and understanding among Muslims and warned of any disputes and misunderstandings which were fanned by imperialist and the Zionist enemies of Islam. In a meeting with Shaykh Hasan Khalid, Lebanese Sunni Muslims' mufti, and Syrian Mufti Shaykh (Kaftaru) here, the president referred to unity among Muslims as the main element to achieve any victory in the Islamic world, especially in Lebanon.

In another development, President Khamene'i met with a number of ulema of Lebanon and reminded them of their determining role in creating unity among people to restore their rights.

Earlier, vice-president of the Supreme Assembly of Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din and his brother, Muhammad Ja'far Shams ad-Din met and conferred with President Khamene'i.

During the meeting, the social-political situation in Lebanon was discussed and Shaykh Shams ad-Din expressed his deep concern over plots being designed by imperialists and Zionist aggressors to disintegrate Lebanon.

Stressing that Muslim unity was the only means to thwart such plots, President Khamene'i called on committed ulema of Lebanon to remove any sign of dispute between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

On Friday, the committed Sunni Muslim of north Lebanon, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, met and held talks with President Khamene'i and announced the support of Muslims in Tripoli, Lebanon, for the Islamic revolution and the struggles of Muslim people of Iran. Reiterating the Islamic Republic's support for Muslims in Tripoli, President Khamene'i stressed that the only way to fight the Zionist regime was through the unity of Muslims.

Report on Press Conference

JN080933 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this morning left the guest palace where Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i is staying. The two presidents had breakfast together and reviewed the outcome of the talks that have been held between the Syrian and Iranian sides since Thursday evening. President Khamene'i then held a press conference, at which he announced that a full understanding was reached on all the topics discussed.

The Iranian president emphasized that the issue of the occupied territories and the subjects related to Israel were top among all the political issues discussed by the two friendly countries. He added: We shared many identical views regarding the international situation and the conditions in the region.

He said verbatim: Unity of action, efforts, and concepts; this is what took place.

President Khamene'i said that selecting Syria for his first official visit abroad is of a special significance. He praised bilateral relations and emphasized the continuation of efforts to bolster these relations. In the area of trade exchange there is nothing new. Khamene'i said: In fact, our trade relations are very good and we did not find anything to add to what we had reached earlier.

Asked about the possibility of ending the Gulf war, President Khamene'i said: Our viewpoints have been identical since the beignning of the war and have not changed to date.

He added verbatim: We know of no other way to end the war except the downfall of the existing regime in Iraq.

The Iranian military presence in Lebanon was not among the topics discussed. As for military affairs, they were discussed by the two presidents. President Khamene'i announced that he received some of the Ba'labakk and Tripoli ulema and some of the Beirut religious personalities during his stay in Damascus and that these meetings were fruitful and good.

The Iranian president is expected to leave Damascus this afternoon for a destination he declined to specify. A joint statement on the results of this visit will be released this evening.

SANA Reports News Conference

JN081432 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, 8 Sep (SANA) — Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i has announed that the Syrian and Iranian viewpoints were in agreement on a number of important issues, the foremost of which are the issue of liberating the occupied Arab territories and subjects concerning Israel and the Gulf war. He said: We reached full agreement during our talks with President al-Asad. These talks focused on issues concerning the occupied land and Israel.

He added: It was natural for us to concentrate on these issues, and agreement with Syria was clearly not difficult.

Asked about his impression of his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad during his first official visit to a foreign country, the Iranian president said: I feel that the results were in full agreement with my expectations before the visit, and that there are many common points between us and our Syrian brothers regarding the situation in the region and the international situation. We expected that we would reach an agreement on unifying our efforts and action as a result of our identical concepts. This is indeed what happened, and I believe this explains our first visit to this country.

In a news conference he held at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus before his departure today and which was attended by correspondents from Arab and foreign news agenices as well as by representatives of the Syrian media, the Iranian president added that he agreed with President Hafiz al-Asad on the need to strengthen Syrian-Iranian relations in all fields.

Answering a question on Iran's proposal to expel Israel from the United Nations, President Khamene'i said that Syria voiced full agreement on this. On the Lebanese situation, Khamene'i appealed to all Lebanese forces to pool their resources to liberate southern Lebanon from the Israeli aggression.

On Iran's stand vis-a-vis the U.S. veto against the recent Lebanese draft resolution at the UN Security Council, Khamene'i declared that Iran considers the U.S. policies in the region to be unacceptable as well as unjust, because these stands are generally based on injustice and encroachment on peoples' rights.

On a possible end to the Gulf war, Khamene'i reiterated his country's previous stands — namely, the need to overthrow Saddam Husayn's regime. This is because an Iraq without Saddam will greetly benefit the region.

Further on Khamene'i Activities

JN081308 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] The current visit to Syria by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i and the huge delegation accompanying him is expected to end at any moment. This visit, which began on Thursday evening, is the first visit abroad by the Iranian president.

At a press conference he held at the Iranian Embassy this morning following his breakfast with President Hafiz al-Asad, President Khamene'i said that selecting Syria for his first official visit abroad is of special significance.

It is worth noting that the Iranian president sent the Iranian foreign minister to Tripoli the day before yesterday on a mediatory mission. The Iranian official met in Tripoli with Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, who agreed to visit Damascus. Sha'ban accompanied the Iranian foreign minister yesterday at the head of a delegation from the Islamic Grouping, which comprised Malik 'Allush, official in charge of military affairs in the Islamic Unification Movement; Hashim Munqarah; Khalil 'Akkawi; and 'Abdallah Babaki. This is Shaykh Sha'ban's first visit to Syria.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban told our radio today that he met with President Khamene'i and that he expects to meet with Syrian officials.

The leaders of the Arab Democratic Party in Tripoli are also present in Damacus. We talked to some of them. They are: Nasib al-Khatib, secretary general of the party; 'Ali 'Id, leader of the militias; and Najah Qaz'un, member of the party's leadership.

President Khamene'i said that Iran's policy toward Lebanon is clear and that all Lebanese forces should work to remove Israel from Lebanon. He added that regarding Israel, Syria and Iran reached identical decisions and analyses. President Khamene'i also condemned the U.S. policy in the region and described it as unjust, unacceptable, and based on (?aggression). He denounced the recent U.S. veto at the UN Security Council.

Khamene'i Departs for Libya

LD081826 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, Sept 8, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i left here for Libya Saturday after a three-day visit. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' accompanied Khamene'i to the airport.

A 21 gun salute was fired for the visiting Iranian president as he inspected the guard of honour. Observers believe that the trip will open a new era in the joint Iran-Syrian struggle against imperialism, Zionism and the reactionary forces. The trip has been widely reflected by the news media in the region.

Joint Statement Issued

JN081844 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Joint statement issued in Damascus on 8 Septemebr following Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i's visit to Syria — read by announcer]

[Text] At President Hafiz al-Asad's invitation His Excellency 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, paid an official and cordial visit to Syria. He was accompanied by a delegation composed of Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister; Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Revolutionary Guard Corps; Mostafa Mir Salim, chief counselor at the presidency; and a number of senior officials and figures in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The visit lasted from 6 to 8 September 1984. The great guest was accorded a warm and official reception by President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian state officials.

The two presidents held talks in which the following participated, from the Syrian side: Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, Deputy Prime Minister for Services Affairs Walid Hamdun, Director of the Pan-Arab Security Office Ahmad Diyab, Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', Minister of Presidential Affairs Wahib Fadil, and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister Muhammad 'Isam.

From the Iranian side: Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Revolutionary Guard Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, chief counselor at the Presidency Mostafa Mir Salim, Deputy Chairman of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee Mohammad Do'aie, Majlis member Hasan Shahcheraghi, Naval Forces Commander [title as heard] Colonel 'Ali Seyyed-Shirazi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab and African Affairs Department Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, and presidential adviser (Mohammad Reza Fayyad).

The talks were conducted in an atmosphere of brotherhood, friendship, and understanding. They discussed all issues of common concern and bilateral relations, particularly the tense Middle East situation which is the result of the continuous Zionist aggression on the Arab territories and the means of confronting this aggression, including canceling Israel's UN memebrship; the Iraq-Iran war; and the Lebanese sistuation.

The two presidents held a detailed discussion of all aspects of the serious Middle East situation and the threats that result from the continuous Israeli aggression in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. This aggression is supported by U.S. imperialism and world colonialism with the aim of achieving military, political, and economic domination; entrenching the Zionist entity in Palestine; and foiling the aspirations that the Arabs, Muslims, and nonaligned states have of realizing their national independence.

Due to Israel's continuous hostile actions that expose its hostile nature and continued occupation of the Arab territories, ignoring all humanitarian values and principles as well as the UN resolutions, the two sides stressed the importance of joint struggle in confronting the imperialist and Zionist designs. The two sides agreed on the need for joint action to impose sanctions on the Israeli enemy in the United Nations, including depriving it of its UN membership, and to work for achieving this objective through the Nonaligned Movement, the ICO, and the friendly countries.

The two sides affirmed the continuation of cooperation to topple the Camp David accords and the Arab-Israeli agreement [mu'ahadah]; denounced the attempts to break the isolation imposed on these accords and on the Egyptian regime, which is committed to these accords; and decided to foil them. The two sides stressed the importance of joint struggle to liberate all the occupied Arab territories and to guarantee the Palestinian people's national and inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state in Palestine. The two sides denounced the continuous U.S. imperialist attempts to support the Zionist entity by all military, political, and economic means. This exposes the nature of the hostile plans in the region.

The two sides discussed all aspects of the Lebanese situation and stressed their support for Lebanon's unity, independence, and the need to end the civil war. They also confirmed their support for the Lebanese nationalist resistance in the Lebanese territories occupied by the Israeli enemy.

The Iranian side praised Syria's role under President Hafiz al-Asad in foiling the 17 May agreement, which constituted a chain imposed on Lebanon under the pressure of the imperialist-Zionist occupation and coercion. The Iranian side also appreciated Syria's efforts to safeguard Lebanon's unity and independence.

The two sides discussed the hostile war that Saddam's regime carried out against the Islamic Iranian Revolution. They also denounced Saddam's attempts to expand this war to further expose the region to dangers, to inflict more losses on it, to engulf the Gulf region, and to create circumstances that would serve the U.S. plans that seek to control the region on the pretext of protecting the West's economic interests.

The two sides stressed their support for the fraternal Iraqi people's struggle against Saddam's bloody regime so that they can determine their destiny without any foreign interference, exercise sovereignty over all their territories, and assume their responsibilities with their brothers in confronting the imperialist-Zionist hostile plans.

The Iranian side expressed concern [hirsahu] about promoting fraternal relations, good neighborliness, and cooperation with the region's states. The two sides also denounced Israel's decisions to annex Jerusalem and the Golan Heights to the Zionist entity. They called on the international community to pressure Israel to respond to the UN resolutions which describe the annexation decisions as null and void and having no legal effect.

The two sides discussed the conspiracy of the United States and its allies regarding the recent incidents in the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. They considered it a U.S. imperialist pretext for expanding its military presence in this part of the world and confronting the independence and liberation of the region's people.

The two presidents discussed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the progress of these relations. They stressed the need for continuous action to promote these relations in the interest of the two countries, of the people of the region, and of the joint struggle against the imperialist-Zionist objectives. They also stressed the need for unity and solidarity among the progressive forces, and the need for escalating confrontation against imperialism and Zionism.

President Hafiz al-Asad of the Arab Republic of Syria has accepted President 'Ali Khamene'i's invitation to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran as soon as possible.

North Lebanese Leaders Meet in Damascus

JN091819 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The first contact between Syria and the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM] and the Islamic grouping of Tripoli took place at the highest level today when President Hafiz al-Asad received and met for over 4 hours with a delegation from the city of Tripoli.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban told our radio: Many matters that were ambiguous for the two sides were made clear today. The meeting unveiled all the dimensions of the plot against Tripoli.

Sha'ban added: Today's meeting with President al-Asad put an end to a problem and laid down the bases of a new stage of cooperation with the Syrian side. Hands are now held out for sincere work.

Asked how today's meeting ended differences between the IUM and the Arab Democratic Party, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said: It was revealed that the causes of disagreement are personal rather than political or sectarian. Matters have been clarified. Therefore, one can say that sedition has ended as of today.

Shaykh Sha'ban disclosed that he held a lengthy meeting with Democratic Party Secretary General Nasib al-Khatib last night. The talks were frank and sincere, and viewpoints were identical. He added that an expanded meeting will take place either in Damascus or Tripoli between the two sides' leaders to resolve all problems. He also disclosed that he met in Damascus with His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din and held fraternal talks in a frank atmosphere that unified concepts. He added that the two sides view each other's stance in fraternal way.

Finally, he said that there is tendency to end all problems and remove the armed manifestations from Tripoli. He said that his movement has drawn up conditions and concepts on the way to solve the security problem in Tripoli. He hoped that these proposals would confrom with what the other side proposed to Prime Minsiter Rashid Karami. Otherwise, he said, efforts will be exerted to bring about this conformity.

By the time of this news bulletin, we have learned that Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban met with Nasib al-Khatib and the rest of the Islamic Grouping delegation's memebrs at the Islamic grouping's place of residence in Damascus. Engineer 'Abdallah Babaki and Malik 'Allush also met at the Sheraton Hotel with 'Ali 'Id and Najah Qaz'un, members of the Arab Democratic Party Central Command. These meetings are still in progress.

Al-Asad Receives Visiting Tripoli Delegation

JN091257 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] At 1030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation from Tripoli [Lebanon] that includes Sa'id Sha'ban, Khalil 'Akkawi, Malik 'Allush, Hashim Munqarah, and 'Abdallah Babaki. The talks centered on the Lebanese situation in general, and the situation in Tripoli in particular. They also discussed the importance of ending internal differences and of achieving national accord in Tripoli. The president affirmed Syria's support for the efforts that are aimed at achieving peace in Lebanon and national accord in Tripoli.

Az-Zu'bi Receives Abu Fadil

JN091434 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, 9 Sep (SANA) — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi received today Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. They discussed the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, a number of current issues in the region, ways to promote parliamentary relations, and coordination between the Syrian People's Assembly and the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in dealing with Arab and international issues.

Abu Fadil asserted Syria's pan-Arab and distinguished role under President Hafiz al-Asad in supporting national detente and the national unity government to achieve Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Az-Zu'bi affirmed Syria's firm stand and its continued support for the fraternal Lebanese people and for the Lebanese nationalist resistance to expel the Zionist invaders from the Lebanese territories.

Ash-Shar', Lebanese Visitors Confer

JN091517 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, 9 Sep (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' reviewed here with Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Mrs Khawlah Arsalan the current situation in the Lebanese arena. Ash-Shar' received Abu Fadil and Mrs Arsalan today.

Construction Minister Returns From USSR

JN091404 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, 9 Sep (SANA) — Construction Minister Riyad Baghdadi returned here from Moscow today at the end of an official visit to the USSR. During his visit Baghdadi headed a delegation of public sector construction companies to purchase Soviet equipment and vehicles. A number of contracts were signed with the Soviet side. These contracts will be implemented after their presentation to Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Ash-Shar' Leaves for Conference in Malta

JN091542 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' left Damascus for Malta this evening to head the Syrian delegation to the conference of foreign ministers of nonaligned countries in the Mediterranean region which will begin there tomorrow.

Minister of Industry Leaves for Tehran

JN091837 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, 9 Sep (SANA) — Industry Minister Mahmud Qaddur left Damascus this afternoon for Tehran at the head of a delegation that will spend several days in Iran. The industry minister and the delegation accompanying him will hold talks with Iranian officials on promoting the exchange of industrial products.

President al-Asad Greets Zhivkov, Kim Il-Song

JN081906 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Damascus, 8 Sep (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a congratulatory cable to Todor Zhivkov, Bulgarian People's Republic State Council chairman, on the occasion of Bulgaria's liberation day. In his name and on behalf of the Syrian people, the President expressed sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Zhivkov and the fraternal Bulgarian people. He also expressed his happiness for the increasing development and strength of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Bulgarian People's Republic. Concluding his cable, President al-Asad wished the Bulgarian people further progress and success in the future.

President al-Asad has also sent a congratulatory cable to DPRK President Kim Il-song on the occasion of DPRK national day. In his name and on behalf of the Syrian people, the president expressed sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Kim Il-song and the fraternal Korean people. The president wished the Korean people further success in building and unifying the Korean homeland in a peaceful manner and without any foreign interference. He stressed concern about promoting and developing cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries.

Damascus Reports Israeli Aircraft Sorties

JN100837 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Zionist warplanes carried out provocative sorties over the Lebanese mountain area at dawn today.

Update on Alignment, Likud Distribution of Positions

TA071120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1047 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] In their meeting this morning, Ari'el Sharon told the prime minister he agrees to undertake the industry and commerce portfolio, but he requested that the appointment be approved by the Herut Center which will convene at the beginning of next week. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Golan. Our correspondent further reports that Moshe Arens decided not to be a minister in the national unity government after discovering that he will not receive a senior position.

Alignment Knesset Member Gad Ya'aqobi will be acting chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs which will be headed by Yitzhaq Moda'i. Gad Ya'aqobi will also chair a special ministerial committee for changing the electoral system. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that this was concluded in Ya'aqboi's talk with Shim'on Peres. It has not yet been decided which ministry will be headed by Gad Ya'aqobi. Shim'on Peres is holding constant talks with the Labor Party members on the distribution of portfolios and positions.

Shamir To Present Agreed List for Approval

TA071227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The Herut ministers decided that Yitzhaq Shamir will bring an agreed list of the movement's representatives in the national unity government for the Herut Center's approval. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that most of the ministers were opposed to the suggestion that Yitzhaq Shamir only determine the four senior ministers and that contests be held for the remaining posts. Sharon was one of the Herut ministers who was opposed to this suggestion. The Herut Secretariat will convene on Sunday, while the Herut Center will convene on Monday.

The Liberal ministers are still meeting with the prime minister in his office. They too may want to reach an agreement which will preclude a contest in the Liberal Center.

Peres Comments on National Unity Agreement

TA080925 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Shim'on Peres says that the Likud and the Alignment have made mutual concessions in order to establish a national unity government. Among the Alignment's achievements in the negotiations, Peres listed the control over the defense, education, and immigrant absorption portfolios which have a great deal of impact on economic affairs. Peres believes that despite disagreements, the national unity government has a chance to cope with the economic and the Lebanese problems as well as to unite the people.

Peres anticipates opposition to the agreement in the Labor Party Center but he believes that the center members will ultimately support the establishment of the wide-based government after they hear details about the negotiations. He added that the talks with the Shinuy movement members on participation in the government are continuing and that the religious affairs portfolio will be deposited in his hands until it is decided which party will receive it. He rejected MAPAM's claims that a national unity government will be unable to operate, expressing the hope that the two parties to the national unity government will find a common language. Shim'on Peres was talking to our correspondent Sara Frankel.

Shamir Promises To Release Settlement Money

TA090728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has promised to release approximately $2 million for the routine needs of recently established settlements. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the promise was given the day before yesterday at a meeting between the prime minister and the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, Matityahu Droubles, and his staff.

The release of the money is now being discussed with the Finance Ministry. Since the election, no money has been allocated to new settlements and many of them are facing difficulties.

Shamir Sums Up Government Achievements

TA100702 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Sep 84 p 1

[Report by *POST* Knesset correspondent]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir proudly ticked off a long list of the government's achievements during the 11 months he was at its helm, when the cabinet yesterday held its last regular session.

Shamir blamed the country's economic plight on the early elections which he said had interrupted progress toward economic recovery, achieved thanks to the success of Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad.

Shamir also said the situation in Lebanon is "somewhat calmer than before."

He painted a bright picture of relations with the U.S. and with Europe, following a period of crisis. Relations with Africa and Asia had also "progressed somewhat," he declared.

The country had been able to deal more vigorously with its economic problems during his year as premier, Shamir said, thanks to the relaxation in security and political tensions.

Shamir said that the cabinet had perhaps not yet recovered from the shock of the unexpected resignation of Menahem Begin last year. "For many ministers he was a leader, a teacher and a guide," Shamir said.

Also at yesterday's cabinet session, the journey of President Herzog next week to Nijmegen, Holland was approved. The mayor of Nijmegen invited Herzog to attend the 40th anniversary of his city's liberation from Nazi occupation, and of the battle of Arnhem, in which Herzog served as a brigade intelligence officer in the British Army.

The cabinet also held a classified security debate.

Weizman Opposed to Proposed Government

TA091050 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] There is a threat to a national unity government from 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad Movement. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the opposition arose after it became clear that the Likud had been given most of the economic portfolios.

In a lengthy discussion during the night, Alignment leaders and Yahad did not succeed in reaching a compromise over Weizman's demand to incorporate their agreement into the economic guidelines. This refers to a promise given the Yahad Movement to establish a committee for tax reform, to freeze allocations to settlements, and other demands in the economic sphere. Shim'on Peres will now make another attempt to reach an agreement with 'Ezer Weizman, while at the same time he attempts to counter the criticism inside his own party. For the moment, the situation is not clear and there are doubts as to whether the institutions of the parties involved will approve the establishment of the national unity government.

Meets With Peres

TA091217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Shim'on Peres and 'Ezer Weizman are now making another attempt to settle the dispute that arose which threatens the establishment of a unity government. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the main point in dispute is Yitzhaq Shamir's opposition to the establishment of a national security council headed by Avraham Tamir and guided by 'Ezer Weizman. The agreement between Yahad and the Labor Party does, it is true, state that a national security council is to be established, but Peres and Shamir concluded that it would only be established with the agreement of both of them, and Shamir is opposed to it.

Dispute Settled

TA091241 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1233 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The meeting between Shim'on Peres and 'Ezer Weizman ended a few minutes ago. A senior Labor Party source told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that both sides have achieved a complete understanding and the differences of opinion have been settled. It was agreed that this understanding between the two would not be publicized.

Our correspondent notes that 'Ezer Weizman's spheres of responsibility as minister without portfolio have been defined to his satisfaction. According to the understanding, Avraham Tamir will serve as adviser on security affairs.

MAPAM, NRP Organs on Government Formation

TA070934 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] MAPAM's organ *'AL HAMISHMAR* writes its editorial as a personal letter to Labor Party members, saying: Acceptance is not your only choice. You do not have to sink in the mud; you need not agree to the public degradation. You can prevent this. Please, think about this. In less than a week, Ari'el Sharon will present his government to the Knesset and Labor Party members will serve in his government: 'Uzi Bar'am as the immigrant absorption minister, Yitzhaq Navon as the education minister, Yitzhaq Rabin as the defense minister and Shim'on Peres as the temporary prime minister in this Ari'el Sharon government. Was this what you dreamed of? Was this what you hoped for when you cast your vote for the Alignment on election day? Labor Party members, you are not doomed to have such a government. It is within your power, only within your power, to prevent it. Say no to such a government.

The organ of the National Religious Party [NRP], *HATZOFE*, writes that the NRP's demand for the religious affairs portfolio is not a matter of honor or of another portfolio, but an essential issue which concerns the link between the state and religious affairs. Without entering into assessments of the talents of others who covet this portfolio, it should be stated that only the NRP, with its national-Zionist-religious view, can guarantee that Israel's religious affairs will be run both from a wide national outlook and with an eye to the public's religious needs.

The NRP, which brought about the establishment of the national unity government, wants to be part of it, but all government components should know that the NRP will not join the government at all costs. The price the NRP is asking is a matter of principle. If its basic demands regarding the government's structure and distribution of portfolios are met, it will be able to play an important role, since national unity will thus be maintained. A new road will emerge toward national unity and the prevention of the polarization between religious and nonreligious people.

Tehiya Not Joining National Unity Government

TA071107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The Tehiya Movement is not joining the new government for the time being. The movement's representatives ended their meeting with the prime minister a short while ago and Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan told our correspondent Shalom Oren he was not convinced in this meeting that he and his colleagues can participate in the national unity government.

Meanwhile, our correspondent reports that Minister Ari'el Sharon is still trying to persuade the Tehiya Knesset members to join the government. Following his meeting with the prime minister, Minister Sharon said he accepts the prime minister's proposal that the matter of portfolios be decided by the Herut Center.

Arens To Be Minister Without Portfolio

TA071133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The defense minister's adviser on communication and information, Nahman Shay, has just called us and said that in a meeting with Shamir at 1100 this morning, Arens accepted the prime minister's appeal and agreed to serve as a minister without portfolio in the national unity government.

Abba Eban To Be Knesset Committee Chairman

TA071630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Abba Eban will be the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He talked with Shim'on Peres this afternoon and agreed on this post. Eban opted for this post rather than the post of minister without portfolio.

Liberals, Herut Agree on Ministerial Posts

TA071730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The Liberals will have four ministers in the Cabinet, one of them without portfolio. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that a decision to this effect was reached at a meeting of the Likud ministers, despite the fact that according to calculations — a ministerial post for every four Knesset members — the Liberals should have only three ministers.

Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein has learned that Minister Moda'i firmly demanded that the Industry and Commerce Ministry remain in Gid'on Pat's hands. Yitzhaq Shamir rejected this demand and said that Ari'el Sharon would be the industry and commerce minister. Nevertheless, people in the Liberal Party this evening said that this portfolio is open to clarifications with the Likud.

Herut will have six ministers with portfolio. They will be appointed according to an agreed list that Yitzhaq Shamir will submit to the Herut Center for its approval. This arrangement was proposed by Minister Hayim Corfu and was supported by most Herut ministers. However, they rejected Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal that he submit a list of the four most senior ministers — Shamir, Levi, Arens, and Sharon — to the Herut Center and that the other two posts be open to competition. Minister Sharon suggested that Shamir's slot be secured and that the five remaining portfolios be open to competition at the Herut Center.

Labor Opposition to Unity Agreement Growing

TA081128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Additional announcements have been made by Labor Party Center members in opposition to the agreement on the national unity government. About 20 center members, Arabs from Galilee and Nazareth, have announced that Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah will not vote for the agreement on the national unity government if the demands he submitted on behalf of the Arab population are not met. Darawashah and his colleagues demand an Arab deputy minister, the immediate enactment of legislation against racism, equality for the Arabs in the sphere of children's allowances [received from the National Insurance Institute], and a solution to the problem of thousands of owners of houses which are not connected to the electricity and water networks because of illegal construction.

A group of Labor Party Center members in Haifa announced it will not vote in favor of the agreement if MK Moshe Shahal does not become a Cabinet minister. A delegation of Haifa Labor Party members will approach Peres tomorrow with the demand that Shahal be appointed.

Unity Government To Include Two Inner Cabinets

TA081834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT Sep 84

[Text] The national unity government will have two inner cabinets: one for political and security matters and the other for economic and social issues. The economic cabinet will be headed by Finance Minister-Designate Yitzhaq Moda'i and his deputy will be Labor's Gad Ya'aqobi.

Latest Details of Coalition Preparations

TA090743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] All important national unity government decisions will be made by the inner Cabinet of five Alignment and five Likud ministers. Accordingly, if the National Religious Party joins the government it would not be at the expense of one of the large parties and would not have any effect on such important matters as settlement. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that during the night, Labor Party leaders formulated the coalition agreement and the guidelines for the new government. According to the agreement, the two large parties will support any decision made by the inner Cabinet. The status of the deputy prime minister has yet to be decided.

Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the Liberals have not yet accepted Gid'on Pat's new status as minister without portfolio. They are demanding another post for him in place of the commerce and industry portfolio, which is to be given to Ari'el Sharon. One of the proposals is to give Pat responsibility for foreign trade. This refers to links with the EEC and responsibility for the free trade zone negotiations with the United States.

This afternoon the Liberal Center is to meet to choose its ministers for the Likud group of ministers.

The MAPAM Center is to meet and will apparently decide whether to resign from the Alignment, provided that the Labor Party Center tomorrow approves joining the national unity government.

The Herut secretariat is to decide in which way the party center is to choose the party's ministers.

Today the Shinuy council is to decide whether to join the national unity government. Before that, Shim'on Peres is to meet with Amnon Rubinstein and he will try to persuade him to join.

MAPAM Dissolves Knesset Partnership With Alignment

TA091719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] A decision was passed with a large majority by the MAPAM Center to dissolve its partnership with the Alignment in the Knesset and to vote against the unity government. Some 400 members of the center voted in favor of this resolution and only 9 voted against it.

Labor Party Leadership To Meet 9 Sep

TA090725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The Labor Party Political Bureau meeting to discuss the national unity government agreement will be held this afternoon instead of tomorrow. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that, in view of the increasing opposition to the agreement in the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres has decided to authorize the Political Bureau to decide how Labor Party ministers in the Cabinet will be chosen. The Labor Party branch in Giv'atayim has three Knesset members, Harish, Amoray, and Arbeli-Almozlino, and about 20 members in the Center are opposed to the new government agreement. The branch has called upon those conducting the negotiations to demand a new division of the economic portfolios and a reexamination of the matter of the premiership rotation.

Doubts Expressed Over Establishment of Government

TA090827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] There are doubts whether a national unity government can be established. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that, against the background of dissatisfaction in the Alignment and Likud over the expected division of portfolios, it is doubtful whether the new government can be established as planned. There is great opposition within the Labor Party, primarily because the Alignment has not been given an important economic portfolio and its ministers will have to serve in the same Cabinet with Ari'el Sharon. The Likud as well is not happy with the division of the portfolios. Finally, the Liberals are upset because Gid'on Pat is to lose the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Ometz Joins National Unity Government

TA091930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The Ometz faction will join the national unity government. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the party's secretariat this evening decided unanimously to accept the recommendation by Yiga'el Hurvitz and Zalman Shoval to accept Shim'on Peres' proposal. According to the proposal, Yiga'el Hurvitz will be minister without portfolio and will participate in the inner cabinet on economic affairs.

Liberal Party Elects Government Ministers

TA091935 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The liberal ministers in the next government will be Yitzhaq Moda'i, Avraham Sharir, Gid'on Pat, and Moshe Nisim. Pesach Grupper will not participate in it. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that at tonight's meeting in the party's center, there were very small differences, sometimes by only 10 votes. After the voting, Yitzhaq Moda'i said that it was proven that the Liberal Party is democratic, and the results will unify the party.

Arens on Lebanon, Cooperation with U.S.

TA070829 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Sep 84 p 5

[Report on an interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman — in Arens' Knesset office last Monday]

[Excerpt] Arens has never held the press in high regard and made a point of saying so in a recent speech at the National Defence College. It did not come as a surprise, therefore, when he was reluctant to discuss the article in *THE WASHINGTON TIMES* last week, which quoted Pentagon sources as saying that the IDF had performed extremely poorly during the Lebanon war.

"I prefer not to discuss it, because by doing so I will be giving the article an importance it does not deserve," he said.

The *TIMES* was not one of the major papers in the U.S. and the source of the article "was conveniently hiding behind a cloak of anonymity."

Even factually, the article was wrong. "They claim, for example, that we shot down two of our own helicopters while fully loaded. Well, that simply is just not true, as so much of the other information in the article is untrue."

He totally rejected the notion that the article was the result of a concerted effort by Pentagon officials to blacken Israel's name, though he said that there could have been an individual who was interested in doing this.

"There is absolutely no campaign by the American Defense Department to blacken Israel's name, or the image of the Israel Defence Forces. I also do not believe that there is any attempt to freeze the progress we are making on strategic cooperation. I just do not believe that."

These talks, Arens continued, were doing far better than either side had anticipated, and for the first time, on the record, he disclosed their scope. "They are clearly based on the assumption that one: We can visualize certain situations where the common interests of both countries are threatened, and we agreed that under these conditions we would work in concert and thus we should do some planning for these types of contingencies; and two: Strategic cooperation is based on a mutual appreciation of the military capability of the two sides.

"Now, what would be the point of discussing strategic cooperation based on the above, if they thought the IDF was no damn good?" Arens asked rhetorically.

"If the Pentagon felt that we would not be able to do anything when required to act, they would not be engaged in these types of conversations with us. I do not think for a moment that anyone in the administration was behind the report," he concluded, stressing again that he was being deliberate in not discussing the contents of *THE WASHINGTON TIMES* report in order not to give it "credence it does not deserve."

According to Arens, relations with the American Administration in general, and the Pentagon at all levels, has seldom been better. He attributes this to the fact that the State Department has slowly come round to the Pentagon's thinking on Israel's role in the Middle East, "whereas before, we did not constitute a good fit in the way the State Department viewed the Middle East."

These good relations have filtered all the way down the line. "I can tell you that we sense a great deal of respect for the IDF in the American Navy, Air Force and ground forces — even admiration," he said.

The turn in relations could not be traced to one single event, but to a chain of events, one link of which was the closing of the gap in the perception of the State Department and the Pentagon, allowing for a "different view of the degree of commonality that exists in American and Israeli relations in the Middle East."

He cited other contributory factors, such as America's physical involvement in Mideast events that have led to a better understanding of the military and political problems we face here. "They were faced by similar problems to those that face us, and this also allowed us an opportunity to compare notes. That in turn led to deeper understanding."

While admitting that relations between the actual armed forces had been strained at various points, particularly when the Marines were stationed in Beirut, he said that these had hardly impaired the overall, long-term relations between the two countries.

"Look, the American Navy has just purchased mini-RPVs (drones) and Kfir fighters from Israel. That is surely a good indication of the respect the American military has for the capability that exists here. Not just for a specific system, but for the total knowledge that went into making that system. Everything considered, I would say we have good reason to be pleased with the way things are going."

He refused to be more specific than he had been on the actual form strategic cooperation between Israel and the U.S. was taking. Both sides, he said, had made an early decision to give the talks a low profile in order to minimize potential opposition from those who were against them.

"We have been talking for over six months now, and confidentiality has been respected on both sides. Thus there has been no debate and no recriminations, and we have managed to move along at a good pace, consistently, all the time, with the policies of our governments and the consensus among the people."

Asked whether the people of both countries did not have the basic right to know what they were being committed to, Arens guaranteed that what was happening would not, in any circumstances, place Israel on the front line against the Soviet Union.

"We are planning for contingencies and situations in which both governments will consider that their interests are being threatened. We are not looking at any situations where one side will be expected to act unless, at the time, both governments agree to act. Each side can refuse to act, and any decision to act will be subject to the condition that both governments at the time will say: 'Our interests are being threatened; we have to work together.'"

Contingency planning was going on now between the military of the two countries, because if the situation were to ever arise when such cooperation was necessary, "it will be impossible to react in a haphazard way. Pre-planning is necessary to allow us to work in concert."

Arens rejected the notion that what was happening politically in Israel was leading the enemy to understand that Israel was weak and divided.

"Perhaps if they look at things on the surface, that could be the impression that our enemies, like those in Damascus, could have. But a deeper examination would prove them wrong. What is going on here is the price we pay for democracy, and no doubt there are those in Damascus who feel that Israel will not be able to withstand another attack. But they are wrong, and many of them know they are wrong.

"They must have a very high appreciation of the capabilities of the IDF," he said, adding that the lesson had been driven home particularly by Israel's Air Force two years ago during the opening stages of the Lebanon war.

"We received some pretty powerful shocks at the time. We may have made our mistakes, but they know that we have learned our lessons."

Arens admitted that the Syrians had undoubtedly learned their own lessons, too, and that they had made progress in rebuilding their armed forces. But he was convinced that Israel still maintained its deterrent credibility, despite the ostensible fragmentation at the political level.

"The deterrent we are looking for is one that will make it unlikely that people sitting in Damascus will think they can plan a war and that it will go according to the way they would like to see it go. Well, I can say that they are not in a position to do that, to plan with full confidence. And if they do decide to take the risk, I can safely say that they will meet some very unpleasant surprises."

On Lebanon, the minister had very little new to offer. Israel was in the position it is still in because it has been impossible to come to terms with the Shi'ites in the south, who have been rendered useless as negotiating partners because of pressure from both Amal in the north and the fundamentalists who dealt viciously with anyone in the south who wanted an amicable arrangement. He could not predict when things would change, but the present situation could not last forever.

Along the eastern frontier, where the IDF is face to face with the Syrians, "We would agree to a separation of forces immediately if the Syrians would agree," he said. When asked if something to achieve this was in the works, he replied that "the Syrians know we want this," but that the problem was not over contact between the sides, but rather that the Syrians apparently did not want an agreement at this time.

He denied that there has been any significant Syrian build-up in Lebanon, and explained that Israel was fortifying its line as a tactical move only. The new bunkers and roads currently being built in Lebanon, he said, were designed to make our soldiers' lives up there safer and more comfortable, and not a response to any new Syrian threat.

Apparently in view of the pending change in government, Arens did not want to make any statement that would sound like a commitment on Lebanon. Instead, he repeated the familiar reasons for things being the way they are, promising change at some future date under conditions he did not define.

The problems Israel was having in setting up a national unity government, he said, should not be taken by those who do not understand the workings of democracy as a sign that Israel was not unified.

"Our children all go to the Army; reservists go to Lebanon; we have more volunteers for elite units than ever before, and more than we can use. In fact, despite what is going on at the political level, Israel has an army probably unlike any other country's — or let me be more modest and say that one would have a hard time finding a better fighting force."

IDF Maneuvers Show Success of New Training Methods

TA071150 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Sep 84 p 2

[Report by military affairs correspondent]

[Text] An IDF force yesterday completed extensive maneuvers which began at the beginning of the week. These maneuvers concluded a series of exercises performed by this force, which has also been posted in Lebanon in the past. At the conclusion of the maneuvers, top officers who observed them said that the force's achievements were excellent.

In yesterday's concluding maneuver, extensive use was made of new training methods which were introduced into the IDF a few years ago. Despite the fact that these methods have been used by the IDF for quite some time, this is the first time that such extensive use was made of them in a large scale exercise. A top officer who followed the various stages of the maneuver termed it a "breakthrough" in the training of IDF units and emphasized that with the help of the new equipment, the exercises are no longer static, but maneuvers which closely resemble battlefield conditions.

Chief of Staff Says Soviets Not Enemies

TA071213 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Sep 84 p 2

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Amir Oren]

[Excerpt] "As the IDF chief of staff, I did not and I still do not consider the Soviets as enemies, therefore the strategic cooperation talks are in no way directed against the Soviets." This was said yesterday by Lieutenant General Moshe Levi in reaction to President Reagan's comment that the strategic cooperation talks are aimed at making a stand against the Soviet threat.

The chief of staff is visiting Washington, where he talked to Israeli correspondents. He also said in this regard that "we have specific and very permanent enemies, and we face them under conditions which may lead to a more positive process if war is avoided, and to victory if it is not."

The chief of staff expressed regret concerning the interpretation given to the exclusion of Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne from his meeting with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Levi said that there was no bad intention here, but only the desire to maintain a strictly military profile.

Regarding *THE WASHINGTON TIMES* report on IDF losses in Lebanon caused by its own forces, the chief of staff avoided a direct denial of the report, but he added that the IDF has thoroughly studied its mistakes and is working to correct them.

IDF Bombs Palestinian Headquarters Near Bhamdun

TA100512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes last night bombed the headquarters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the area of Bhamdun in Lebanon. All our airplanes returned safely to their base. The IDF spokesman reports that the pilots reported accurate hits. Our military correspondent reports that the headquarters which was bombed was located in a three-story building.

Swaziland To Receive Tourism Assistance

TA071127 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Sep 84 p 3

[Report by tourism affairs correspondent Zohar Blumenkranz]

[Text] Israel will assist Swaziland in establishing a tourism infrastructure. Agreement on this issue was achieved between Tourism Ministry Director General Rafi Farber and the Swazi minister of tourism, commerce, and industry, Derick von Wissel, during the visit of an Israeli delegation to Swaziland in the middle of the week. The Swazi minister will arrive in Israel today to continue discussion of this and other issues.

Farber met the Swazi minister twice. At the request of the hosting minister, Israel will assist in planning and building, as well as in the area of tourist transportation; in training guides through the tourism school in Jerusalem; and in developing the hotel branch. The Tourism Ministry will try to interest Israeli tourism elements in the possibility of investing in tourism in Swaziland. In return, the Swazi minister guaranteed to encourage tourism to Israel from his country and from neighboring South Africa via Swaziland.

November Franco-African Summit Postponed

AB071515 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Bujumbura, Sept 7 (AFP) — Burundi has decided to postpone the annual Franco-African summit, which had originally been scheduled for November here, because the dates clashed with an upcoming summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the government of the east African country said today.

The announcement, which did not say when the Franco-African meeting would now be held, came in a message from the Burundian Government to Ethiopian President Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, who is also president of the OAU.

The Franco-African summit, which is traditionally held on alternate years in France and in an African country, was scheduled to take place in mid-November in Bujumbura, although a precise date had not been fixed. The much-delayed OAU summit, which is seen as crucial for the future of the organization, is planned for November 12 to 15 at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The decision to postpone the Franco-African summit had been made in consultation with the member-states concerned "to create the best conditions for the success of the 20th OAU summit," the message said.

ALGERIA

IRNA: Khamene'i-Led Delegation Arrives in Algiers

LD091823 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Algiers, Sept. 9, IRNA — Iran's President Khamene'i arrived here Sunday afternoon in the third leg of his first visit abroad since his coming to office. The Iranian president and his accompanying delegation were welcomed at the airport here by the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Algerian Cabinet members, high ranking officials of the 'Front de Liberation Nationale' (FLN) Party and Iranian Embassy staffers to Algiers. Before his arrival here Khamene'i had visited Syria and Libya and conferred with the leaders of both countries.

Khamene'i Makes Arrival Statement

LD091945 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The Iranian president has been in Algiers since this afternoon on a working and friendship visit to our country. Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, accompanied by a large delegation, was welcomed on his arrival at the Houari Boumediene International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid. Sarid Abekoush you were present at the airport:

[Begin recording] [Abekoush] Yes, talks with President Chadli Bendjedid are planned during this working visit by the Iranian president. Having arrived late this afternoon, Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was welcomed by President Chadli Bendjedid, members of the Political Bureau and members of the Iranian diplomatic corps accredited to Algiers. President 'Ali Khamene'i is accompanied by a large delegation notably Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. In the VIP lounge at the Houari Boumediene Airport, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i made a short statement.

[Khamene'i in Persian with superimposed French translation] We are in a friendly and brotherly country with whom we shall discuss numerous subjects which we are anxious about. It is our duty to discuss all problems concerning the Islamic countries and it goes without saying that the Palestinian issue comes at the top of these problems; it is thus our duty as Muslims to act effectively to counter all plots of the Camp David type or ones which aim at extending such a plot. We shall be discussing these issues with the Algerian leaders. [end recording]

Khamene'i Confers With Bendjedid

LD100855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president, and the delegation accompanying him ended their visit to Libya yesterday afternoon and arrived in Algeria. Our country's president last night attended a dinner in his honor which was hosted by the Algerian president. The dinner was also attended by members of Mr Khamene'i's delegation as well as by a number of top-ranking Algerian officials.

Political talks between Iran and Algeria begin last night following the dinner party between Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president, and Chadli Bendjedid the Algerian president, heading the two country's delegations. At this meeting which was held in Algiers, members of the Iranian delegation included the minister of foreign affairs, Velayati; the minister of the Guards Corp, Mohsen Rafiqdust; the commander of the ground forces, Colonel Seyyed-Shirazi; and our country's ambassador to Algeria. The Algerian delegation included Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs; Colonel Mustafa ibn (Yusuf), secretary general of the Ministry of Defense, and the Algerian ambassador to Iran.

Foreign Affairs Minister Discusses Chad With Oueddei

LD091134 Algiers APS in English 1024 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Algiers, 9 Sep 84 (APS) — The Algerian foreign affairs minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, audienced Saturday [8 September] in Algiers the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei. The talk focused on the situation in Chad and prospects of a national reconciliation in this country.

Criminal Court Sentences Group From 1982 Clashes

LD071508 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The fate of the 19 Algerian fundamentalists involved in the November 1982 clashes, which resulted in 1 dead and several injured, is now known. The Algiers Criminal Court passed sentence on seven of them ranging from 5 years suspended sentence to 8 years in prison. The other 12 were released. The verdict is a relatively lenient one, given the fact that the public prosecutor requested sentences as extreme as life imprisonment. The defense lawyers pleaded a lack of evidence and only one prosecuting witness firmly accused the main dependent.

LIBYA

Khamene'i Arrives; Met by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD082017 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran Sept 8 IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic and his accompanying delegation arrived at Libya's largest air base in Sidra some 450 kms from Tripoli, at 18:40 Tehran time (15:40 GMT) Saturday. The Iranian delegation was warmly welcomed by the Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi and other high ranking Libyan officials, including Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam Jallud.

President Khamene'i reviewed the guard of honor at the air base and later on his way responded to the enthusiasm of a group of the people of the region who were shouting slogans in support of the Islamic revolution of Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

The president is being accompanied by Foreign Minister Velayati, IRGC Minister Rafiqdust, Ground Forces Commander Seyyed Shirazi, high presidential advisor Mir Salim as well as two members of the Majlis Foreign Commission.

The president and his accompanying delegation arrived in Libya after an official two-day visit to Syria and talks with top ranking Syrian officials, including President Hafiz al-Asad on various issues. The focus of the talks was Iran's plan for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the UN.

Also welcoming the Iranian delegation at the Sidra air base were the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Tripoli, Mohammad Kazem Khonsari as well as other members of the Iranian Embassy in Libya.

The visit to Libya and Syria by Iran's president is taking place for strengthening mutual ties and adopting a joint strategy in the fight against the Zionist regime. Iran's pian to expel the occupier regime of Quds from the UN is also a major topic of discussion between Iranian and Libyan officials.

In a short meeting with President Khamene'i, the Libyan leader expressed the hope that the Islamic revolution would continue its path of progress. "We are alongside you and you are in our hearts," said Col al-Qadhdhafi to the Iranian delegation. He further said that they were waiting for such a meeting since [a] long time ago.

In response President Khamene'i expressed pleasure over the trip and meeting with the Libyan leader. "I have a similar feeling," said President Khamene'i, further adding that "you have been alongside us from the very beginning of the revolution's victory."

Velayati on Syria, Libya

LD091217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] According to a report by our correspondent in Libya, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign affairs minister, who is accompanying Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, on his visit to Libya, today in an interview talked about the result of the Iranian and Libyan leaders' meeting last night.

First he referred to the president's visit to Syria, and the discussions relating to the continuation and expansion of the fight against Israel, the Islamic Republic of Iran's plan concerning Israel's expulsion from the United Nations and the other regional issues. Regarding the aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran's high-ranking delegation visit to Libya he said: Considering the importance of the countries against the trend to compromise with Israel, we consider the exchange of views among the heads of Muslim and progressive countries as necessary. The main aim of this visit is to create coordination among Iran, Syria and Libya in confronting Israel. Another dimension of this visit is the fight against the disgraceful Camp David accord and against activities to bring Egypt out of isolation.

The foreign affairs minister added: In the talks between Khamene'i and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi last night, which lasted over 2 hours, the plan suggested by the Islamic Republic of Iran to expel Israel from international circles including the United Nations, which was fully supported by the Libyan leader; and more serious ways to fight Israel and to strengthen the progressive Muslim countries' anti-Zionist front were discussed.

In the interview, Velayati added: Khamene'i's visit is a very strong start to a great political move aimed at confronting Israel and expelling it from international circles.

Referring to the fact that the preliminary meeting between the Libyan and Iranian heads of state was positive, he said: These meetings, at the level of heads of Islamic and Third World countries, can be useful for reaching common views on international issues.

On the importance given by the Libyan officials to the visit of the high-ranking political delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the foreign affairs minister said: The warm welcome of the Libyan officials, including Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader; Major Jallud, the number two man; two of the officials of the People's Committee and the secretary general of the Libyan People's Committees; also their military and political officials; and the Libyan fighter aircraft manoeuver on the arrival of the Iranian delegation, was an indication of the importance of this visit.

Velayati added: The welcome given by Libyan officials in the Sidra Air Base, which is their biggest air base, indicates their support and approval of the stance adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran as the strongest force opposing American imperialism.

Velayati Comments on Talks

LD091817 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sept 9, IRNA — After a three hour meeting between Iranian President Khamene'i and Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi, on Saturday it was announced that the two sides have agreed in principle to strengthen their anti-imperialist cooperations. Speaking after the meeting, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the Libyan leader has announced his readiness to support Iranian plans for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the United Nations.

Describing the talks as very useful, he said the two sides had complete agreement in principle, regarding the strengthening of the progressive and Islamic anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front. International issues including developments in North Africa and the Middle East were also discussed, Velayati said. The two sides agreed it was necessary to fight efforts aimed at ending Egypt's isolation, Velayati added.

The Iranian foreign minister described Khamene'i's visits to Libya and Syria as very fruitful and said such visits should become more frequent between the Iranian officials and their Syrian and Libyan counterparts. He said at this stage the exchange of ideas between progressive and Islamic countries is necessary.

According to the foreign minister, Khamene'i's visit is aimed at coordinating efforts between Iran, Syria and Libya against the

Zionist regime. Decisions reached at the meeting were to be followed up in subcommittees on Sunday.

Commenting on media reaction to Khamene'i's visit, Velayati said the foreign inspired media tried to reflect on the visits as signifying differences between Iran and its allies. He added that the visits have brought further alignment between the three countries.

Iranian foreign minister also spoke about recent concerns expressed by Ronald Reagan at the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the UN. Reagan's concern expressed before the opening of the UN General Assembly reflects the implication of President Khamene'i's visit, Velayati commented.

Referring to a recent U.S. veto of a Lebanese resolution in the Security Council, Iranian foreign minister said this should serve as an alarm to those Islamic and Third World countries which think the United States can solve the Palestinian issue. As Iran and other Islamic and progressive countries have repeatedly stated, a concessional solution will never be attainable. As long as international organisations work in favour of colonial powers no issue will be solved in the interest of the deprived masses, he added.

IRNA: Khamene'i Discusses Issues

LD100847 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Algiers, Sept 10, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said Sunday that his talks with Libyan leader, Col al-Qadhdhafi, were mainly focused on the fight against Zionism and a solution to the Palestinian cause. President Khamene'i, in a talk with Libyan television, added that fortunately they had reached valuable conclusion in their negotiations.

He said that, although his visit to Libya was short, his talks were conculsive and he and Col al-Qadhdhafi were on compelete agreement. He described relations between Iran and Libya as being very good and added that ties at present stood at an excellent level and the two countries cooperated in many fields.

Asked on the hostile attitude of the U.S. towards Iran and Syria, President Khamene'i said that such an attitude, as described by Imam Khomeyni, could be summarized in one sentence, that the U.S. is the great satan. He added that the U.S. had a satanic stance vis-a-vis uprising nations and Islamic movements of progressive and revolutionary governments. As an example, he referred to the U.S. satanic measures in the Sidra and the Persian Gulfs.

In another part of his interview, the president noted that the Zionist enemy and the issue of Palestine were the prime tasks of the Islamic world, therefore, he added, the Zionist plots and ways of confronting such conspiracies, as well as the solution to the Palestinian problem were topics of his talks with the Libyan leader. Fortunately, he said, the two sides agreed on the mutual fight with the Zionist regime, believing that the salvation of Palestine is the responsibility of all Muslims. This task would never be materialised in the absence of an all-out cooperation by all countries, the president said, and stressed that the time was ripe for it now, since at present the U.S., for various reasons, was in a weak position. Therefore, Khamene'i added, maximum advantage should be taken from the situation and fatal blows should be dealt to the Zionist regime and imperialist policies in the region.

On the Iraqi imposed war, President Khamene'i said that the Islamic Republic's policy in this war was to reach a point where the Iraqi people, without Saddam Husayn, could determine their own fate since Saddam and his Ba'th Party were imposed on Muslim Iraqi people.

In a message to the Libyan people, President Khamene'i called on them not to hesitate a moment in confronting the U.S. and its allies. President Khamene'i and his companion arrived in Libya Saturday after a visit to Syria. During his 24-hour stay in Libya, the president met and held talks with the Libyan leader on Iran's proposals for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the UN, and matters of mutual interest. President Khamene'i left Libya for Algeria Sunday.

In the last round of talks between President Khamene'i and Col al-Qadhdhafi, the two sides also discussed Iran's plan for the formation of the international committee to support the oppressed Afro-Americans of the United States and also the plan for the coordination of Third World countries exposed to the U.S. imperialist aggression. During the meeting, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps minister, Mohsen Rafiqdust, and Commander of Ground Forces Col Seyyed Shirazi outlined recent victories of the Islamic combatants in the fronts of the Iraqi imposed war.

Col al-Qadhdhafi, announcing his full support for Iran until the downfall of the present Iraqi regime, said that the toppled Shah was a common enemy of Iran and Libya and in the same manner, Saddam Husayn of Iraq is today.

Khamene'i-Led Iranian Delegation Departs

LD091543 Tripoli JANA in English 1520 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Tripoli 9 Sep (JANA) — The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Khamene'i left the town of Sidra this afternoon at the end of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. President 'Ali Khamene'i and his delegation were seen off by the brother leader of the revolution. Also present at the send-off was Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

Paris: French Technical Expert Imprisoned

LD071511 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] A French technical expert has been in prison in Libya since the beginning of June. The French External Relations Ministry has just confirmed this. The technical expert, Mr Galvand, is employed by the public work enterprise SKREG. The Quai d'Orsay has said that it is dealing with the case, but gave no further details about this case to avoid jeopardizing the success of any humanitarian demarche. The French Consulate has not yet managed to contact Mr Galvand.

MOROCCO

King's Adviser, Bush Discuss U.S. Relations

LD071410 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] His majesty's adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira, yesterday met in Washington with the U.S. Vice President George Bush. The U.S. Vice President said the United States is concerned about the situation in the Arab Maghreb in light of the conclusions of the African-Arab union agreement between Morocco and Libya. According to the U.S. State Department, Washington will continue its firm and constructive relations with Morocco. His majesty's adviser earlier met with the U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz.

Visa Requirement for Algerians Abolished

LD081957 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] His majesty's government has decided to abolish the entry visa to Morocco for Algerian citizens. This decision will come into force as of Monday. Here is the statement that was issued by the Ministry of Interior concerning this matter:

To put an end to speculation about the level of Moroccan-Algerian relations since the emergence of the federation between the Moroccan Kingdom and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, his majesty's government has decided to abolish entry visas to Morocco for Algerians. Thus, crossing the borders between the two neighboring and fraternal states will not be subject to any administrative measure on the part of Morocco as of Monday, 10 September 1984.

SUDAN

'Uthman Returns From Kinshasa, Makes Statement

JN081648 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Sep (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman has announced that the Kinshasa meeting was an natural extension of the Khartoum meeting, and another chance to hold consultations and exchange viewpoints on the common issues that have made such a group important. In a press statement following his return to the country yesterday after participating in the 3-4 September Kinshasa meeting — which included the Zairian, Egyptian, Central African, Ugandan, and Rwandan foreign ministers — he added that the step these countries have taken has succeeded in opening the way for broader cooperation and for other countries to join this group. It also opened the way for the countries in this group to eliminate any vagueness or suspicion about their good intentions.

Hashim 'Uthman also explained that membership in this group is open, and that it is not directed against anyone. He added that the group acts in accordance with the OAU's principles, spirit, and provisions, and that it can be considered a new sphere of regional cooperation proposed by the 1980 Lagos economic summit. He pointed out that Rwanda joined the group as an observer, and stressed that Rwanda had a good impression of the Kinshasa meetings. He said that this impression would encourage other countries to join this group's forthcoming meeting in Uganda. He also explained that the group agreed to call itself (Andovo), which means fraternity in Swahili. This expresses the spirit of cooperation and consultation, and the exchange of opinions among the countries in the group.

The minister pointed out that the meeting's final statement was comprehensive and that it encompassed all of the regional issues, such as cooperation among the members of the group, as well as economic and African issues. He said that it was a great consensus based on a new spirit to deal with important issues without the influence of any tendency to outbid, pressure, or polarize. The talks were held in a healthy atmosphere of understanding concerning the method of action that this group will practice.

The minister said that while the Khartoum conference witnessed the birth of this group, the Kinshasa meeting has promoted its progress and enhanced its awareness of its responsibility toward Africa and the world. He affirmed that Sudan has contributed toward the formation of this group, and he voiced Sudan's conviction that this meeting will contribute toward tackling issues in a manner that is in harmony with Sudan's declared principles of good neighborliness, noninterference in the affairs of one another, and solving disputes by peaceful means. The minister said: Thus, we will reach what we consider to be our rights and the rights of others, and we will establish a new basis for morality in regional relations and cooperation.

The minister asserted that Sudan's role in the Kinshasa meeting was clear, that its views were decisive, and that it stands were very frank. Thus, Sudan was able to affect the conference's final statement in terms of affirming the renunciation of divisive actions and approving unifying ones. The minister said that the Sudanese delegation explained the application of Islamic law in Sudan, not only to defend what is right but to remove any misconception or obscurity that may have been initiated by anti-Sudanese quarters. He said that this had a positive effect on the conference participants and led to a genuine understanding of Sudan's actions.

Concluding his statement, the minister said that Sudan supported the cause which were discussed by the conference, particularly the Chad problem, the Middle East issue, and the South African issues. Sudan affirmed the need for the group to support the OAU and entrench its principles and concepts. The minister expressed his satisfaction with the final statement's denunciation of the Red Sea mining and its lauding of Sudan's initiative to convene a conference on this issue in Khartoum.

Djibouti To Attend Red Sea Conference

JN081037 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Sep (SUNA) — Djibouti has agreed to Sudan's call for arranging a regional conference on stability and security in the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan agreed to attend the conference which will be held in Khartoum on 16 September.

People's Assembly Speaker Leaves for Beijing

JN071500 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Sep (SUNA) — People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid left for Beijing this morning on a visit to the PRC at the invitation of the chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. During the 5-day visit, As-Sayyid will hold meetings with senior PRC officials to promote relations between the two countries in various arenas, particularly in the parliamentary and legislative fields.

The delegation accompanying As-Sayyid comprises General Babkr 'Abd ar-Rahim, chairman of the People's Assembly Defense and Security Committee; Mahjub az-Zubayr, 'Abdallah Hamad al-Malik, and Ilyas al-Amin, People's Assembly members; and 'Abd al-Wahhab Muhammad Ahmad, from the People's Assembly General Secretariat.

WESTERN SAHARA

AFP: Polisario Claims 30 Soldiers Killed, 91 Wounded

PA100349 Paris AFP in English 0339 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Algiers, Sept 10 (AFP) — Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence in the Western Sahara killed 30 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 91 during a series of raids between September 1 and 6, the Polisario headquarters said here Sunday. The guerrillas also destroyed a munitions depot, a fuel storage facility, a land rover, and several mortars and trenches during the attacks in the disputed territory and the Ourkziz region of Southern Morocco.

ETHIOPIA

Further Reportage on Workers Party Congress

Draft Constitution 'Unanimously' Adopted

EA081231 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1014 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Excerpt] After lengthy discussions by the Constituent Congress the draft constitution of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] was today unanimously adopted as the WPE statute. The Commission for Organizing Working Procedure was among the working commissions formed at the colorful opening of the WPE congress on 6 September 1984. After last night's meeting and after assessing the WPE draft constitution, the commission's report was presented this morning to the congress by Comrade Legese Asfaw, chairman of the commission. In the morning report Comrade Legese pointed out that the WPE statute and draft constitution have all the qualities and principles that a Marxist-Leninist party should have, are in line with the WPE program and the unique situation of Ethiopia, and were carefully prepared. He asked the congress to adopt the draft constitution as the statute of the WPE.

Congress Approves Draft Program

EA091906 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] The draft of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] program was presented to the congress this afternoon by the Commission for Drafting Programs, Declarations and Resolutions and was unanimously approved. A report of the commission's in-depth studies on the draft program was presented by Comrade Shimeless Mazengia, COPWE Central Committee member and chairman of the Commission for Drafting Programs, Declarations and Resolutions.

In his report, Comrade Shimeles explained that according to the authority conferred on the Central Committee by the Second COPWE Congress for drafting a new program, the WPE draft program was prepared, given a critical appreciation and enriched by all members, and presented for approval by the historic congress. He added that the WPE program, which is our party's basic document and the principal guideline of our revolution, was prepared after our comrade revolutionary leaders gave directives to the committee to conduct basic studies that would serve as a springboard. Before the WPE's draft program was approved, exhaustive opinions on it were expressed by Comrade Girma Neway, COPWE Central Committee member and first secretary of the WPE of Wollo Region, and Comrade Teki Negasi, a worker from the Eritrea Region.

Congress Elects Central Committee

EA091748 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] founding congress is in its fourth [as heard] day of deliberations today. A meeting held on camera by the WPE founding congress this afternoon carried out the election of WPE Central Committee members and alternate members, and members and alternate members of the WPE Audit Commission in a secret ballot. Before the election process, the names of the nominees to be Central Committee members and alternate Central Committee members and those of nominees to be Central Committee Audit Commission members and alternate members were presented to the congress and duly approved.

Electoral Commission Officials Selected

EA092014 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1900 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Earlier the list of names of candidate members for the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee, candidate alternate members, and the names of members of the Auditing Commission was presented to the congress by Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and approved. Next, an Electoral Commission was elected in an open vote by the congress. The commission then held its own meeting under the chairmanship of Comrade Legese Asfaw, chairman of the Congress's Commission for Organization and Drafting regulations, who was representing [betewekelut] the Presidium. Berhanu Baye was elected chairman of the Electoral Commission and Comrade Geses Techane as its secretary.

In this respect, after the Electoral Commission made the necessary preparations, the members of the WPE founding congress elected the WPE leaders by secret ballot in a fully democratic manner and ended their meeting.

New Commissions Begin Work

EA081120 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
0400 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Two of the commissions formed when the Workers Party of Ethiopia formation congress was opened in a colorful ceremony started their work yesterday evening. The commissions which started their work are the Commission for Organizing Working Procedure and the Commission for Drafting Programs and Resolutions. It is recalled that the four commissions which were established when the congress started its work are:

1. The Commission for Organizing Working Procedure.
2. The Commission for Drafting Programs and Resolutions.
3. The Commission for the 10-year Plan, and
4. The Commission for Documentation and Assessment.

Congress Approves Economic 'Guideline'

EA091320 [Editorial Report] Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic and Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries at 0502 GMT on 9 September begin a relay of the 4th day of the proceedings at the Constitutent Congress of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE], held in the WPE Hall in Addis Ababa. At 0609 GMT, Fasiki Sidelel, chairman of the Congress Commission for Preparing a 10-year "Guidline" for the country's economic and social development, opens his report, saying it will provide a "springboard for the construction of a socialist society." He says that to attain the stage of development required for the construction of a socialist society, it is imperative to regulate economic and social activities in a "centralized and planned" manner. The guideline was prepared on the basis of the "concrete experience" of the last few years in "regulating the economy in a planned manner," and lessons had been drawn from the experience of "fraternal countries," he said.

Fasiki Sidelel said that priority in developing the economy would be given to agriculture "on the basis of interrelated development in agriculture and industry." Noting that the construction of a socialist economy requires the expansion of heavy industry, he points out that because of the country's "backward stage of development," this task calls "first and foremost for raising agricultural production, which is a vital source of raw materials and capital accumulation." He says that the guideline sets the goal of rapidly increasing agricultural production, aimed at ensuring self-sufficiency in food with an "emergency surplus" for at least 3 months. It is "indispensable" to raise production by expanding state farms and organizing the peasantry into "agricultural producers cooperatives," Sidelel says.

Sidelel's report continues: "In the course of the period provided for by the guideline, the national economy is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 6.5 percent, agriculture 4.3 percent, industry 10.3 percent, and services 6.9 percent. Accordingly, by the end of the guideline period, the share of industrial production in overall gross domestic production is expected to grow from its present level of 16 percent to 24 percent, and agriculture to decline from its present level of 48.3 percent to 39 percent." His report adds: "One of the major functions of the central plan is to provide for measures which must be taken to raise the capital accumulation needed for fulfilling the goals set in the various phases of development. Accordingly, pertinent measures have been formulated to provide for the enhancement growth of our domestic capital accumulation and to acquire the huge capital accumulation we need to accomplish the goals set in the 10-year guideline for the development of production in the service sector of our economy."

Concluding his report, Sidelel says: "With regard to our foreign economic relations, the guideline indicates that we shall further extend and consolidate our relations with the socialist world, and particularly henceforth give our serious attention to the building of a strong and independent socialist economy."

After debate on the 10-year guideline report, the congress chairman, at 0757 GMT, asks for a vote on the report, asking members to express agreement by raising their hands. After the vote count the chairman states: "The guideline is approved."

Zambia's Kuanda Departs

EA081243 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1014 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Summary] Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia today returned home after attending the workers Party of ethiopia constituent congress in Addis Ababa. He was seen off by Wodgeress Fikre-Selassie, PMAC secretary general.

Trade, Aid Agreement With USSR Signed

EA091123 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Excerpt] It has been disclosed that the Ethiopia-USSR agreement includes the following in the agricultural sphere: expanding irrigation on 80,000 hectares in the lower Awash Valley which includes building a dam; accelerating irrigation work and agricultural development in Gambela Region; and establishing a large-scale cattle ranch and slaughter house.

In the industrial sector, apart from the projects currently underway, the agreement includes building one complete textile factory and improving the cement factory in Dire Dawa. Apart from this, the agreement will enhance oil exploration already in progress and the mining of gold and other minerals. A general agreement was also reached on possible projects to produce electricity in addition to the (Melka Wakan HEP) Project [in central Ethiopia].

Regarding trade, methods enabling import of equipment and factory parts necessary for Ethiopia's economic development and export to the USSR of Ethiopian goods produced in cooperation projects have been drafted under the long-term agreement.

In his speech on the occasion, Comrade (Adis Tedla) stated that the signing of the agreement at this period of party promotion guarantees the party's future development and pointed out that the projects stipulated in the agreement will play a vital role in Ethiopia's economy.

For his part Comrade Guriy Marchuk said the signing of the friendship and cooperation agreement formulated the principles of development for the economic relations of the two countries and affirmed the agreement ensures both sides will strive to expand and strengthen their relations in the economic, trade, scientific and technological fields based on equality and mutual benefit. Comrade Guriy Marchuk explained that signing the agreement when the Workers Party of Ethiopia Constituent Congress is being held and when the 10th anniversary of the revolution is being celebrated makes it a special cause for appreciation.

Opposition Spokesman Derides 'Abyssinian Colonialism'

EA092318 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] The Abyssinian regime pursues a policy of colonialism which is to divide and rule while creating confrontation between various nationalities, group and group. This was said today in Mogadishu by a spokesman of the Ethiopian Peoples Democratic Movement. The spokesman added that the Abyssinian regime continues to uproot communities from their original home areas and to replace them with others. Those who refuse to be moved to new areas are massacred and are left for vultures to feast on their carcasses.

The spokesman for the Ethiopian Peoples Democratic Movement added that the people living in Abyssinia have either perished in the civil war or by starvation, while others have fled the country living as refugees in neighboring countries or languishing in jails. Yet others who have been pressed into the Army are supposed to fight unjust war.

Regarding the various religious faiths in Abyssinia, the spokesman said that all religious groups have been wiped out and mosques and churches have been destroyed. The aims and objectives of the Abyssinian regime are to remove all religion from the country. The spokesman for the movement said that the dergue that rules Abyssinia has pursued its expansionist and interventionist policies and continues to create intrigues in other countries while refusing to have good-neighborliness with its neighbors based on peace and mutual understanding.

The spokesman for the Ethiopian Peoples Democratic Movement added that the dergue that rules Ethiopia has directly sidetracked the interests of the country and people and has since destroyed the economy of the country while being under the complete manipulation of a superpower. It has turned the country into a center where the strategic interests of a superpower is conceived and implemented. The spokesman added that the Abyssinian farmers have lost their plots to the dergue and have since been pressed into the militia which the Abyssinian regime uses to launch unprovoked and unjust wars against its neighbors.

On the Abyssinian forces, the spokesman said that the Armed Forces of Ethiopia have lost their place in society and no one takes care of the welfare of the Armed Forces of the state. The forces are pushed into the battlefronts while ill-equipped so that they may perish.

SOMALIA

ELF Statement Condemns Ethiopian Regime

EA091503 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] A statement by the Eritrean Liberation Front, ELF, released in Mogadishu today has vehemently condemned the colonialist regime administering Abyssinia, which pursues a policy of extermination of all nationalities under its colonialist rule which it inherited from the archaic and medieval monarchs in Abyssinia. The statement said that the current problems facing Abyssinia include famine, political terrorism, massacre, pillage and oppression, while the regime claims to be pursuing democratic and progressive policies.

On the new political policies, the Abyssinian regime hides the true situation prevailing in the country, while claiming victories and progress which the people and country do not enjoy. The statement adds that peace will not prevail in the Horn of Africa region as long as the black colonialist regime in Abyssinia remains blind to the true situation in this region.

Finally the statement calls on all the liberation movements of the various nationalities colonized by the Abyssinian regime to concert their efforts to free themselves from the black colonialist regime of Abyssinia.

Mogadishu: New Ethiopian Party 'Identical' to Dergue

EA091853 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Lies and rejections have become a charter in the basic foundation of the political life of the Black Abyssinian colonialist regime. Our commentary today on this issue is written by 'Abd ar-Rahman Fidow Abdi.

As true history tells us various regimes, including the current one that dictates Abyssinia's affairs, have always used deceit and treachery as a political base to meet true situations. They still believe that the world and international public opinion can continue to be hoodwinked and deceived. The current fascist regime in Abyssinia is famous for blaming atrocities against nationalities under its oppression, liberation wars waged by justified fronts and the victories they score in their struggle, on its neighbors in an effort to create a smokescreen. If we look at other characteristics of the Abyssinian regime one finds that when it talks about the pathetic situations in that country, such as the numberless against whom atrocities are being perpetrated e.g. the thousands in the jails, the thousands that are killed on city streets, the millions who are dying of hunger and starvation in the country, the millions that have fled as refugees from that oppression and are camped in neighboring states, it blames and uses neighboring countries as scapegoats.

These are some of the lies that never seem to tire Abyssian regimes. These unfounded and habitual lies against neighboring states are nothing but to sell to the world its directionless policy based on colonialism and puppetry actions controlled from Moscow. They are also meant to hide its failures and the sufferings it has afflicted on the Abyssinian people as a result of the destruction of that country's economy and its failure to challenge the social problems facing that country. They are also aimed at refusing to accept the justified struggles by liberation movements who are trying to shake off its colonialism, and at appeasing the superpower to whom it was sold itself to serve its strategic and expansionist interests.

If we look at the dergues long-term aims and objectives, they are to hide from the world its tireless efforts in trying to fulfill the Russian Government's strategic interests in Africa, and particularly this region of the horn. Moscow has given responsibilities and made the Addis Ababa regime its representative in perpetrating and continuing the confusion, the state of insecurity and the current war situation in the region.

We can quote some of the lies in Mengistu's recent speech at what the dergue calls the Worker's Party of Ethiopia congress which is to be established in that country. Mengistu openly lied about the true situation in the horn of Africa and the insurmountable problems inside Abyssinia today. There is no debate or no questions needed to be asked about who is responsible for the pathetic and sorrowful situation prevailing in this region or even about the darkness in which the Abyssinians have been forced to live. Mengistu and the foreign power he has accomodated in this region bear full responsibility for the prevailing situation. When the root cause of the situation or problem is examined, history will tell us that the problem is between a colonizer and those who have refused to bow down to it and who have vowed to wage a bitter struggle to realize their goals of determining their own destinies. But Mengistu and his cohorts are striving to give these struggles a different face.

Can Mengistu and his collaborators cover the sun with their bear hands? The answer is no. They, therefore, really hide the struggles of the Liberation movements in this region, such as the Western Somali Liberation Front, Somali Abbo Liberation Front, the Eritrean Movement branches, the Tigrayan Front and other various organizations fighting inside Abyssinia, including the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, whose aim is to topple the so-called regime of Mengistu.

Mengistu Haile Mariam in his speech also said that he would give internal self-government to the nationalities it colonizes after they are ripe for it. Of course this machination is not unknown to the nationalities who know too well that these false promises have also been made by previous regimes. These false promises are merely to change the face of his colonialism. All these liberation movements have condemned the Addis Ababa regimes program to establish a so-called workers party. They see this party as identical in form and shape to the dergue that rule that country by force today.

BURUNDI

Uprona Party Names New Political Bureau

EA081241 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 0420 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] The Unity for National Progress [Uprona] Party Council Committee on Friday, 7 September 1984 held an extraordinary meeting chaired by President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, the party president.

The agenda dealt with the election of the party Central Committee Political Bureau. In accordance with Articles 7 and 30 of the party statute amended by the Second Uprona National Congress, a Political Bureau of eight members including the party president was proposed for adoption to the party central committee members by the party President, His Excellency Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza.

The names of the new Political Bureau are as follows: His Excellenct Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, party president; Mworoha Emile; Stanislas Mandi; Remy Nkengurutse; Euprasie Kand; Jean Kabura; Karenzo Hermenejilde; and Kazatsa Charles.

After the election of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, the Central Committee members discussed various aspects of the national interests and particularly the conduct of the recent presidential election. They all affirmed that the presidential election was conducted in an atmosphere of calm, order, and serenity.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Interviewed on Country's Economy

AB071851 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Paris, Sept 7 (AFP) — The Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) has signed a stabilization agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is continuing efforts to cut public spending, CAR President General Andre Kolingba said in an interview published today in a Paris-based magazine.

In an interview with the twice-monthly *JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE* magazine granted on the third anniversary of his coming to power on September 1, 1981, Gen Kolingba said the IMF agreement involved a stand-by loan of 15 million of the IMF's special drawing rights (15 million dollars at current rates).

On efforts to reduce public spending in the country, Gen Kolingba said the CAR civil service was greatly over-staffed, and continuing efforts were being made to reduce it. Staffing levels had been reduced by 1,300 in 1983 and 1,200 this year, he said, adding that civil service salaries currently absorbed over 60 percent of the country's budget.

Gen Kolingba said the CAR's external debt stood at 91 billion CFA francs (205 million dollars) at the end of 1983, equivalent to 39 percent of gross domestic product. Total debt service payments were likely to reach an annual 11.4 billion CFA francs (26 million dollars) at the end of this year, rising to 14.7 billion CFA francs (33 billion dollars) in 1985, he said. However, debt service payments would subsequently fall as a percentage of projected export earnings, from 20.5 percent in 1985 to 16.9 percent in 1986 and 13.8 percent in 1987, Gen Kolingba said in the interview. "No short term loans were made in 1983," he said, adding that "in the future, the government will make efforts to follow a prudent debt policy." The government intended to "progressively rebuild the basic structures the country needs to promote investment," he said.

The CAR, a former French colony, went through a period of serious political upheaval in the 1970's under the rule of controversial Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who renamed the country the Central African Empire in December 1976.

In the magazine interview, Gen Kolingba also said that democracy in the CAR did not necessarily imply a "myriad of political parties." A return to a multi-party state in the country was "neither a popular demand...nor an essential point for the country's future," he added.

CHAD

Soumaila Comments on Libya-Morocco Union

AB091210 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Sept 8 (AFP) — The recent treaty of union between Morocco and Libya is a marriage of convenience designed to resolve diplomatic problems created by the two states' respective involvement in Chad and the Western Sahara, Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila said today.

In an interview published by the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY (ATP), Mr Soumaila questioned whether the pact, which includes a mutual defense agreement, will survive Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's "ambitions for domination, his character, temperament and dominating ideology." The Chadian minister said Rabat was currently confronting "enormous difficulties" in the Western Sahara, where Moroccan troops have been battling the Polisario independence movement since 1975. Libya was once considered one of the main backers of the Polisario Front, whose struggle for control of the former Spanish colony has received the support of neighboring Algeria and Mauritania. Some observers viewed Col al-Qadhdhafi's spectacular rapprochement with Rabat as, in part, a possible trade-off in which he renounced support for the Polisario in return for guarantees that Morocco would not intervene in Chad, where Libyan-backed opposition groups control the northern half of the country.

Mr Soumaila was quoted as saying that Libya was encountering increasing dissension within the Chadian opposition from groups critical of Tripoli's influence on the movement. He added that the treaty of union did not represent an expression of the will of the Moroccan and Libyan people to unite but was rather a pact designed "to resolve the difficulties of the two parties involved."

Food Situation, Prospects Poor; Call for Aid

AB100915 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the minister of natural disasters sent a veritable SOS to international and humanitarian organizations. Hunger is gaining ground everywhere in Chad, affecting men and cattle. It has spread beyond the traditionally affected zones to reach (?other zones).

There are countless cases of death from hunger or by food poisoning. Worse still, the prospects are disquieting because, according to Mr Yamarke, the secretary of state for the fight against natural calamities, the 1984-85 agricultural season will be poor.

[Begin Yamarke recording] Right now we are bitterly affected by the adverse affects of the previous harvests which were insufficient. And already, the 1984-85 season promises to be very poor, which is disheartening because there have been virtually no rains this year all over the Sahel zone. There has been no cultivation, nothing grows, water has not collected in pools, which causes utter desolation. [end recording]

As one can see, the food production deficit will break all records this year. The consequence of this will prove disastrous. Hospitals and (?social institutions) in Chad are full of women and children suffering from malnutrition. There are more and more social problems with the influx of rural dwellers into the cities, in addition to the systematic destruction of the Chadian livestock. In view of the extent of the disaster, the Chadian Government has made an earnest appeal to aid donors so that their already commendable efforts will be stepped up in favor of the Chadian people. Listen to the appeal by [Natural Calamities] Minister Taher Abdeldjalil:

[Begin Abdeldjalil recording] Messrs representatives of international and nongovernment organizations, after taking stock of the sad food and nutritional situation in Chad, whose population is affected by famine in this century of technological breakthroughs, the Government of the Republic of Chad, through my voice, sounds the alarm so that the international community will become aware of the danger looming over Chad and give a massive and multiform food aid to help save the millions of human lives now in dire straits. [end recording]

CDR Europe Representative: GUNT 'No Longer Exists'

AB072029 Paris AFP in French 1739 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Paris, 7 Sep (AFP) — Thiam Tidjani, the Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] representative to France and Europe — the CDR is one of the main components of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] — asserted in Paris on Friday that the GUNT, which was reshuffled last month, "no longer exists."

Mr Goukouni recently replaced the defense minister and CDR leader, Acheikh ibn Oumar, by his second in command, Rakhis Manani. This dismissal was followed by a public letter of dismissal by the council's secretary general.

Mr Tidjani told AFP that Rakhis Manani has been suspended by the CDR and so could no longer speak in the council's name. He also said that if there is a roundtable conference in the future, the CDR will take part in it under the leadership of its secretary general but not as a GUNT member. He nevertheless rejected the possibility of the CDR's union with the Ndjamena regime.

Rakhis Manani, who was interviewed at the beginning of the week in Tripoli, asserted that he was speaking on behalf of the "majority" of CDR members. He criticized the "Paris traitors" who, he said, are in favor of a separate agreement with Chadian President Hissein Habre. Rakhis Manani nevertheless pointed out that Acheikh ibn Oumar would remain secretary general of the movement — which has the greatest military strength in the GUNT — until the next congress which will take place soon.

Mr Tidjani, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the CDR and its secretary general, stressed that Mr Goukouni was henceforth in the minority as five of the seven factions in the GUNT have already left it to form a front in Ouagadougou. "This instrument, which used to be called the GUNT, has ceased to exist, so it cannot represent the entire anti-Habre coalition," Mr Tidjani said, accusing Mr Goukouni of creating a government in his own favor, "with the complicity of the Libyan authorities," without informing the CDR secretary general. He also stressed that in the CDR's opinion, "everything must pass through the OAU, be it the problem of the roundtable conference on Chad or the SDAR problem." "Acheikh ibn Oumar is at his military base and has no intention of leaving it," Mr Tidjani concluded.

The CDR secretary general, who was seen this week in the Libyan capital, refused to make any statement.

AFP: Rebels in South Ready To Talk to Regime

AB071610 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Maindou, Chad, (AFP) [no date as received] — Rebel forces in the southern Chadian region of Moyen Chari are ready to open talks with the authorities in Ndjamena if government troops, responsible for daily "exactions," are first withdrawn from the region, the rebels' commander has told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview.

Colonel Alphonse Kotiga, who served as minister in a previous government headed by Chad's current president, Hissein Habre, said his "Red Commando" organization was prepared to negotiate "globally" with Mr Habre "out of realism, and under certain conditions." Government forces must first be withdrawn from the Moyen Chari, he said, adding: "we do not accept the exactions committed daily by his (Mr Habre's) soldiers." In addition, he said, "we will have to agree on some major principles: social justice, freedom, unity and an equitable share of responsibilities."

Colonel Kotiga, whose forces are reported to have killed 10 government soldiers in one ambush last week at Danamadji, spoke to AFP recently at nearby Maindou, a village located some 50 kilometers (32 miles) south of Sarh in the far south of Chad.

"It is not Hissein Habre in person that we reject, but his system of government," he said.

"One must be realistic: Hissein Habre is in Ndjamena, recognized by the international community. It is therefore absurd to act as if he was simply the head of one faction."

Moves to organize talks between the two main rivals in Chad, Mr Habre's government and the opposition Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) led by ousted President Goukouni Oueddei, have been stalled because of disagreement over the status of the two parties. Mr Goukouni, whose Libyan-backed forces control the north of the country but whose organization has recently been riven by discord, wants Mr Habre's delegation to be on an equal footing with his own, whereas Mr Habre, whose two-year-old administration has received international recognition, refuses.

Col Kotiga, who said he headed a force of several thousand men mainly equipped with light arms, said he was not in contact with the GUNT, which "no longer interests us." "We have noticed that in the last two years the GUNT has more and more been manipulated by the Libyans, who are occupying part of Chad's territory," he said. The 45-year-old Col Kotiga, who underwent military training in France, held several ministerial posts from 1976 to 1979 under President Felix Malloum, and was also a minister under Mr Habre.

Questioned on Colonel Abdelkader Kamougue, another leading southern opposition leader who is vice-president of the GUNT, Col Kotiga said "he must clarify his position and take his distance from what is left of the GUNT." Col Kamougue "is a member of the GUNT, but sometimes talks about Libya in terms which do not correspond to the (pro-Libyan) positions of Goukouni Oueddei." Col Kotiga also said that Col Kamougue no longer had any real popularity in the south of Chad.

(In a statement released yesterday in Paris, Col Kamougue's People's Revolutionary Movement claimed that Zairian and French forces in Chad were preparing a major sweep against rebels in the south of the country.)

Col Kotiga said his forces, which are mainly deployed in the region south of Sarh with their main stronghold in Moissals, a region bordering the Central African Republic, were mainly composed of farmers. They are currently involved in cultivating cotton "so as not to live off the backs of the people," he said.

Some months ago, Col Kotiga's Red Commandos concluded an armed truce with the authorities, but this broke a few days ago and the group returned to the bush. Col Kotiga agreed that one of the main problems faced by rebel groups operating in the south was that there was practically no coordination between them. However, this was changing, and contacts were currently being made with the "Green Commandos" in the neighboring Eastern Logone Department, with the "Hope Commandos" in Western Logone and with the "Logtan Commandos" in Tadjile Department. The three departments (administrative regions) are located in southwestern Chad.

Col Kotiga said that an increase in anti-French feeling among the southern rebels was due to the fact that France was supporting Mr Habre "unconditionally." France "has wanted to play the sorcerer's apprentice," he said, "and now it cannot put out the fire." However, his forces had nothing against the French "as such", he said, and would not attack them. France...the country's former colonial master — "has historical obligations to Chad," he added.

ZAIRE

Nationals in Capital To Get Identification Cards

AB071835 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1030 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 7 Sep (AZAP) — Kinshasa authorities have just made it compulsory for nationals living in the capital to obtain a numbered identification card at the Central Criminal Records Office.

In the past many people have obtained more than one identification card in Kinshasa and other regions of the country for questionable reasons. Thus, thanks to the new identification cards, it will now be possible to distinguish between Zairians and non-Zairians.

BENIN

USSR Sign Cooperation Accord for 1984-85 Period

AB071532 Dakar PANA in French 1350 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Cotonou, 7 Sep (ABP-BEN/PANA) — The People's Republic of Benin and the Soviet Union on Friday signed in Cotonou a protocol agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation.

During the signing ceremony, which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation between Aleksandr Grigor'yants, charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Benin, and Theophile Ahoyo, director general of the ministry, the two parties emphasized the scope of the cooperation between both countries.

Theophile Ahoyo said that the document which had just been signed covered fields as different as education, staff training, research, culture, arts, information, as well as sports for the 1984-85 period. He also expressed his pleasure over the Soviet action to grant to Benin, beginning in 1985, 10 technical high school scholarships every year for the training of middle level cadres for the benefit of the Beninese economy.

BURKINA

20 Soviet Teachers Arrive in Ouagadougou

AB072143 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Excerpt] The minister of national education, Comrade Philippe Somet, received this evening at the the Independence Hotel a group of 20 Soviet teachers who arrived this morning in Ouagadougou within the framework of cooperation between Burkina Faso and USSR. The technical assistants, 14 men and 6 women, were presented to the minister by the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Union in Ouagadougou, Mr Yuriy (Tatosov).

GHANA

Ivorian Envoy Urges Adoption of Common Cocoa Strategy

AB091359 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The Ivorian ambassador to Ghana, Mr Konan Nda, has expressed the need for Ghana and the Ivory Coast to adopt a common strategy toward the production and marketing of cocoa and other agricultural products. This, he said, is necessary because the economies and budgets of the two countries are so closely tied to the export of cocoa and other primary products that any fall in the prices on the world market has a drastic effect on their people. Mr Konan Nda was speaking to newsmen in Takoradi after touring a number of industrial establishments and the Takoradi port as part of his 2-day visit to Sekondi-Takoradi.

As the first step, Mr Nda suggested that emphasis should be put on the processing of a greater percentage of cocoa by the producing countries into finished and semifinished products to attract better prices on the world market. Efforts must also be made to develop local markets for the products. He declared: The Ivory Coast is against the practice whereby nonproducers of cocoa dictate the price of the commodity; that is why it did not sign the international cocoa agreement in 1980. Mr Nda regretted that for the past 5 years, the price of cocoa has been falling on the world market.

On relations between Ghana and the Ivory Coast, Mr Nda said the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation has opened avenues for closer links in many fields. The ambassador further noted that despite her present financial problems, Ghana has the resources to revive and sustain her economic growth, adding that the general economy of the country is being put on a new path and there is hope for a better future.

Mr Nda visited the cocoa products factory, Ghana Household Utility Company Ltd, and the Pioneer Tobacco [Company] factory [PTC] at Takoradi. He commended the managements of the industrial establishments for the high skill with which they have maintained the machines, which are over 20 years old. At the PTC, the factory manager, Mr Ernest Ayitevi, told the ambassador that the company provides a monthly revenue of 220 million cedis for the government. He said it has embarked on a program to meet about 80 percent of its tobacco need locally within the next 5 years.

GAMBIA

President Jawara To Visit ROK, Pakistan

AB072030 Paris AFP in French 1904 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Banjul, 7 Sep (AFP) — Gambian head of state Dawda Jawara is expected to leave Banjul on Friday evening for the ROK and Pakistan for official visits, it was officially announced in the Gambian capital on Friday.

During the ROK visit (from 12 to 19 September), the Gambian President will discuss the development of the cooperation between Banjul and Seoul with his Korean counterpart.

After visiting the ROK, President Jawara will go on to Pakistan (from 19 to 23 September) for an official visit. It will be recalled that every year, Pakistan grants scholarships to Gambian students in the field of banking. It is stated in Banjul that President Jawara will hold talks with the Pakistani head of state, General Ziaul Haq, particularly on agriculture, irrigation, and water conservation, fields in which Gambia wants assistance from Pakistan.

LIBERIA

Information Minister Denounces Dictatorship

AB071800 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Information minister Alhaji Kromah has warned that Liberians are not prepared to accept any form of dictatorship or rubber stamp government whether it is socialistic, capitalistic, Americo-Liberianistic, or tribalistic. According to today's edition of the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper, Minister Kromah, who made the remarks yesterday, was apparently referring to recent political developments in the country. He also cautioned Liberians, including government officials and private citizens, to exercise what he called social responsibility for the survival, continuity, and prosperity of the nation. Minister Kromah recalled that Liberians' rejection of dictatorship was demonstrated on 12 April 1980 when 17 soldiers risked their lives to, as he put it: change the status quo that was controled and dominated by a century-old oligarchy. He charged that for many years, all important national opportunities were available to a few people under a de facto one party parochial system.

Minister Kromah was speaking yesterday at the Information Ministry during a commissioning ceremony for former deputy information minister, Mr James Z. Eesiah, who now goes to Tel Aviv, Israel, as minister-counselor in charge of press and public affairs in the Middle East. The information minister said it was clear that the one party system was unacceptable and would never be acceptable to the Liberian people, adding that Liberia was founded on the major premise of freedom and liberty.

Mr Kromah observed that he took over the information portfolio last June during a time when the crucial and critical phases of the road to democracy were about to begin. He compared the challenges in Liberia to, what he termed, a woman who wants to have a child but cannot. He noted that for the past 4 years Liberia has been threatened with democracy going through trying moments and episodes. He said that at the delicate stage in which Liberia finds itself, it can only deliver democracy if we all play our parts well.

Justice Minister Scott Comments on Recent Events

AB072200 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The minister of justice, Jenkins Scott, in a meeting with leading U.S. pressmen recently in Washington, United States, has clarified issues concerning recent political events in Liberia. According to Liberia's press counselor in Washington, John (Loaye), Minister Scott gave a brief account of events which led to the arrest of Dr Amos Sawyer and others as well as the subsequent closure of the University of Liberia. Commenting on the rumors circulating in the United States that 50 persons had been killed in the campus incident, Minister Scott dismissed it as baseless, adding: Can 50 persons be killed in Liberia and no one comes up to say yes I lost a relative? Asked as to whether a commission of inquiry will be set up by a ministry to investigate the university incident, the justice minister said only the head of state can do so, adding that the Judicial Committee and the several committees appointed within the Interim Assembly will certainly like to look into the issue.

With reference to the many leaflets circulating in Monrovia, the justice minister said many of them were unfounded, noting that the people involved were individuals setting upon themselves to creating confrontation in the society for their benefit. The press conference held at the Liberian Embassy in Washington lasted for over 90 minutes and was attended by journalists from *THE WASHINGTON POST* and *THE WASHINGTON TIMES*, among other leading papers. Also present at the press conference were Liberia's ambassador to the United States, George Toe Washington, assistant information minister (Emmanuel Burn), and Roberts (Tios) of the Union of Liberian Associations in America.

Deputy Education Minister On Students Rioting

AB071240 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Deputy Education Minister for Instruction Dr Roselita Roberts says school authorities will be held responsible for any rioting on the respective campuses by students. Dr Roberts made the statement Wednesday when she met with public school principals in Nimba Country at a meeting to discuss problems affecting educational institutions nationwide. She said, however, that parents would be held responsible for the indisciplinary acts of their children and the damage of school property by students. Dr Roberts also told the principals that religious instruction would be introduced in all public schools during the next academic year.

Doe Appoints Former Ambassador as University Head

AB091305 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The head of state and president of the Interim National Assembly, head of state Commander in Chief Dr Samuel K. Doe, has appointed Dr Joseph Morris president of the University of Liberia. Dr Morris, a former Liberian ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, replaces Dr Mary Anthony Brown Sherman who was dismissed on 22 August by Dr Doe along with the vice president for administration and academic affairs following the University of Liberia incident. Also appointed are Dr Thomas Koon, vice president for administration, and Dr Rosalita Roberts, vice president for academic affairs.

High School Student Reported Missing

AB071130 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] A senior student at the (D. Tour) High School in Monrovia, Peter (Tay Nyan Doe), has been reported missing by his father to the authorities at the Ministry of Information. This is the only reported case to the ministry, according to the *NEW LIBERIAN* newspaper, which remains still unanswered.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information is appealing to anyone who may know the whereabouts of Peter (Tay Nyan Doe) to inform the Ministries of Justice and Information.

Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit to Yugoslavia

For Yugoslav and Liberian reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Ernest Eastman to Yugoslavia, including his reception by President Veselin Djuranovic, see the Yugoslavia section of the 7 September Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

NIGERIA

State Orders Ex-Officials To Turn In Passports

AB071015 Lagos NAN in English 0955 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Jos, Sept 7 (NAN) — The Plateau Government has directed all former politicians and political appointees still holding diplomatic and official passports to surrender them to the chairman of the special investigation panel, Jos.

In a statement issued in Jos yesterday it said that those concerned should do so not later than Sept 14, 1984 adding that any persons who flouted the order would have their names published and necessary action taken against them.

GUARDIAN Urges Recognition of Banned Students Body

AB081155 Lagos International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Sep 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *GUARDIAN* deliberates on the arrest of the leaders of the banned National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, for holding illegal meeting. The paper, while endorsing the action taken so far by the police over the unauthorized conference, however believes that the students should be given an opportunitv to analyze the problems confronting them. The *GUARDIAN* equally points out that earlier efforts by students to discuss the issue with the government had not been successful. The paper believes that what is necessary now is a nationwide understanding of the country's problems and not confrontation. The *GUARDIAN* therefore urges the Federal Military Government to sympathetically examine the issue and recognize the proscribed students' body.

SENEGAL

Concern Over Trend Toward Religious Fundamentalism

AB090815 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 8 Sep 84

[By Jean Claude Lacotte]

[Text] Dakar, September 8 (AFP) — Although Senegal is officially a secular state, persistent drought and increasing poverty seem to be driving more people to take refuge in Islam. Around 85 per cent of the population are Moslems and Islam is a dominant factor both in the organisation of society and in the political life of the nation.

Faced with growing poverty, which gets worse each year because of the persistent drought in west Africa, many people see religion as a refuge. With no other help available, the only solution seems to be prayer. This religious revival has also affected Senegalese Christians, although these make up less than 10 per cent of the population. The number of Catholics wanting to be priests has risen and more of the faithful are going to church regularly.

Another factor is the influx of people into the towns. Uprooted from familiar surroundings, isolated from their families, they turn to spiritual advisers and mosques to put some order and meaning back into their lives. Religion also provides a talking point for students and intellectuals, who have become weary of political debate because of the omnipotence of the ruling Socialist Party.

Newspapers which used to turn over their editorial columns to political discussion have become bored with the lack of imagination of the opposition parties. Nowadays, articles about Islamic faith (?and) society are the norm. However, the trend towards fundamentalism has caused concern to the government, which earlier this year closed the Iranian Embassy here, accusing its diplomats of "subversive activities".

The Senegalese tradition is towards tolerance, with most Moslems belonging to the more moderate Sunnite sect, and strictly hierarchical brotherhoods playing an important role in society. The largest such group are the Tidjanes, which has some 1.5 million supporters in and around the capital and in the north, out of a total population of 5.5 million. Smaller but still influential because of its hard-working and relatively well-off leaders is the brotherhood of Mourides. Its spiritual base is at Touba, 200 kms (120 miles) east of here, where the founder of the brotherhood is buried and the powerful caliph of the brotherhoods have a social and economic role to play, especially the Mourides, who have almost total control of the cultivation and sale of groundnuts, one of Senegal's key products. Their leaders hand out alms in cash and in kind to the poor — after deducting their share, of course. The brotherhoods also exert an undeniable influence on politics. Since they can call together tens of thousands of the faithful in a few hours, they are much in demand by political parties.

[Words indistinct] as they have always at the last elections in February 1983, they were the party's best campaign agents. When the caliphs came out in favour of President Abdou Diouf, he was virtually assured of election. Since then, scarcely a day has passed without the president receiving some religious leader or other to listen to their requests and complaints. Indeed, they are a valuable source of grassroots feedback for the government, even though they are sometimes accused of putting the interests of their own communities before the good of the country as a whole.

ANGOLA

101 UNITA 'Criminals' Killed in 22-25 August Action

MB062020 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Some 101 UNITA criminals were annihilated and 3 others captured by the Angolan National Defense and Security Forces in offensive actions carried out between 22 and 25 August in the provinces of Bie, Malanje, Huila, Huambo, Benguela, and Moxico. According to ANGOP, citing authorized sources, large amounts of war equipment including heavy and light weapons, ammunition of various calibers, hand grenades, mortars, grenade launchers, and rifle magazines were seized during the operations.

UNITA Rallies Support Against Cuban Occupation

PA081524 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Paris, 8 Sep (AFP) — The Angolan armed opposition movement, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], stated in a communique released here today that Cubans "brutally repressed a popular rebellion that took place on 4 September in Malange in eastern Luanda, resulting in three dead and dozens wounded among the civilian population."

The UNITA communique, dated 6 September, states that "in that popular demonstration, which military men joined, the Cubans did not hesitate in firing on the demonstrators." "UNITA again deplored the loss of human lives, but issued an appeal to the people of Malange Province and all of the country to close ranks to the Cuban occupation," the communique concluded.

New PRC Ambassador Arrives in Luanda

MB071342 Luanda ANGOP in French 1030 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Luanda, 7 Sep (ANGOP) — Mr Zhad Zhenkui, the PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Angola, arrived last Wednesday in Luanda. On his arrival at the 4 February international airport, the Chinese ambassador was received by Domingos Mateus Kemba, the head of the Department of Socialist Countries of the Ministry of Foreign Relations; Mr Zhang Shang, the PRC charge d'affaires in Luanda; and representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Angola.

Mr Zhad Zhenkui, [words indistinct] 58 years, has already headed diplomatic missions to Iraq and Indonesia. Before being appointed to Angola, he occupied the post of director of the visa department of the PRC embassy [as received] in Hong Kong.

Jorge Sends Message to DPRK Counterpart

MB071753 Luanda ANGOP in English 1600 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Luanda, Sept 7 (ANGOP) — Paulo Teixeira Jorge, the Angolan minister of external relations, sent on Wednesday a message of congratulations to his Korean counterpart, Kim Yong-nam, on the occasion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea national day, which will be commemorated on September 9. In the message, Paulo Jorge reaffirmed the Angolan peoples' militant solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle for the unification of their country. The Angolan head diplomat expressed also the Angolan commitment to the view of strengthening international peace and security.

BOTSWANA

BDP Wins 29 of 34 Constituencies in General Elections

MB100638 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] The Botswana Democratic Party [BDP] has swept electoral victory for the fifth time running in the general elections. Out of the 34 parliamentary constituencies, the BDP captured 29, leaving the opposition Botswana National Front [BNF] trailing with 4 seats in Kanye, Ngwaketse South, Gaborone, and Okavango.

The Botswana Peoples Party has retained its seat in the North East, where its candidate, Kenneth Nkhwa, beat C. Butale of the BDP and Mr Kula of the BNF. The Kanye constituency has been won by the vice president of the BNF, Mr Bathoen II Gaseitsiwe, against B.R. Chibana of the BDP. In Ngwaketse South, home affairs minister Kebatshabile Disele lost to (Mitselele) of the BNF. Foreign Minister Archibald Mogwe lost to Mr M. Dabutha in the Gaborone North constituency, while Mr Kavindama of the BNF won the Okavango constituency against the BDP and the Botswana Independence Party. The leader of the Botswana Progressive Union, Daniel Kwele, was defeated by O. Chilume of the BDP in the Nkange constituency. The Gaborone South constituency was won by Vice President Mr Peter Mmusi against BNF President Dr Kenneth Koma.

Earlier on Saturday, the president, Dr Quett Masire, and Vice President Mr Peter Mmusi were among the first to cast their votes.

Masire Addresses Election Rally in Mokgomane

MB071334 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that in the last 3 years the government received external aid totaling 85 million pula to which it added 54 million pula from its coffers to distribute evenly to all parts of the country.

Addressing a rally in Mokgomane in the Southern District yesterday, where he also introduced the Botswana Democratic Party [BDP] parliamentay candidate for Ngwaketse South, Mrs Kebatshabile Disele, Dr Masire called on the people of Mokgomane to judge the BDP by its achievements, adding that the BDP, if reelected to power, would continue to develop the country. Dr Masire said that when he was MP for the area his government established Mokgomane village and also built a primary school and drilled a borehole.

He said that in spite of continuous attacks from members of the opposition that the BDP had failed to develop the country, Botswana had been commended by the World Bank as one of the fastest developing countries in the world. The president also said if reelected, the BDP government would continue to provide Batswana with a bill of rights as stipulated in the Botswana constitution.

BNF Leader Koma Replies to Charges From Mmusi

MB071331 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1125 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The leader of the Botswana National Front, BNF, Dr Kenneth Koma, said he met a South African agricultural economist who had been meeting government officials here, and there had been no information to indicate that the man was a South African agent. Dr Koma said he met the man in the lounge at Mr Mitsumi's business at (Goatle) on 8 and not 11 as Mr Mmusi had charged.

In a press conference at Radio Botswana this morning, Dr Koma said if he had had information indicating that the man was an agent of South Africa, he would have refused to meet him. He said he had no reason to suspect that the man could have undesirable motives since he had indicated that he was to meet the permanent secretaries in the ministries of agriculture, home affairs, and finance and development planning.

Dr Koma was reacting to a charge by the vice president, Mr Peter Mmusi, that he had been secretly meeting with a white South African agent. Dr Koma said the agricultural economist wanted to be briefed on the BNF policies, especially concerning agriculture and the amount 12 million pula which is being paid by South Africa as pension for Batswana working in that country every year. He said the economist wanted to explore the possibilities of utilizing the interests of the money much more profitably.

Dr Koma said that it was only normal that any outsider should be interested in the BNF policies because of its growing support and claimed that recently the American Embassy and the British High Commissioner had requested him to brief them on his party's policies. He had done so.

On charges that his prohibited immigrant status in South Africa had been lifted, Dr Koma said the information had never been communicated to him. However, he said that he had traveled to South Africa because, as he said, he was courageous. He said he was banned by mistake in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, but that did not stop him traveling.

Commenting on the nonaggression agreement issue, Dr Koma said his party officials had misinterpreted the policy. The true position, he said, was that his party would be dictated by the country's survival interest.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Opens SADCC Agricutural Meeting

MB071326 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says the vibrant spirit and political commitment which have been demostrated by Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] member states, have to be carefully nurtured and continuously fueled if Southern African solidarity is to survive the ever-threatening perils of our envious detractors. The prime minister was officially opening a meeting of ministers of agriculture of the SADCC in Maseru this morning.

Dr Jonathan said periodic contacts and interaction at the highest political and policy levels will go a long way towards sustaining the region's solidairty. The prime minister said the path chartered by the nine SADCC member states and enshrined in the 1980 Lusaka declaration is confronted with serious challenges. These include the continuing naked aggression perpetrated directly and by proxy, the intense economic pressures exerted on some SADCC member states, and external interference in the political affairs of those countries.

Dr Jonathan added that the economic and political climate of Southern Africa has put the independence and sovereignty of member countries under great threat and heightens the urgency to reduce dependence on other countries. The prime minister said South Africa has unleased her plan to destabilize our countries through armed bandits, the embargo of security equipment destined for some of us, and through uncompromising demands for these countries to sign peace pacts. These, Dr Jonathan added, can only be workable if signed by mutual consent and not under duress.

Dr Jonathan reemphasized that SADCC was established solely to enhance cooperation and coordination of the development efforts of the independent states of Southern Africa in order to make them politically and economically viable. It was not, he said, to fight against certain countries. Our detractors, through their own policies of racial discrimination, have isolated themselves from the rest of the region, and they want to use SADCC as a scapegoat.

Speaking on the current drought conditions gripping Southern Africa, Dr Jonathan told the SADCC agriculture ministers that a significant part of what would have been development resources had to be diverted to drought relief emergency operations, and this resulted in reduced development activity. He extended a word of appreciation to donor countries and organizations for their fraternal assistance, which has not only saved human lives but also enabled us to retain some financial resources for development purposes. However, he said, this should be regarded only as a temporary measure.

Dr Jonathan said it is imperative, therefore, to seek measures and evolve strategies which will adequately address the drought situation in a more lasting and permanent manner. This calls upon the innovativeness, capability, and resourcefulness of agriculture ministers, to ensure that their nations are well fed and self-sufficient in basic food requirements.

He said manpower development should, therefore, constitute an important part of our regional cooperation program, without which the objectives of SADCC cannot be met. Dr Jonathan said even though Lesotho may appear to be lacking in natural resources, it has water in abandance, which is needed not only for agriculture but also for power generation. He said that harnessing our water resources for large-scale irrigation is our surest guarantee of success in efforts to attain self-sufficiency in food.

He disclosed that as a matter of extreme urgency, Lesotho is to embark on mini- and macro-irrigation schemes. The main thrust towards this end will be during 1985-89, and once the damming of Lesotho waters has been achieved, the potential for intensive cultivation of fish will be considerably enhanced.

Sixishe Says No to Peace Pact Despite RSA Pressure

MB062008 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Lesotho will not sign a nonaggression pact with South Africa despite pressure on it by the South African Government, according to the country's minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe. Speaking to newsmen in Tanzania today, Mr Sixishe said that South Africa was blackmailing his country to recognize bantustans and to sign a peace pact with it. He said that Lesotho cannot sign a nonaggression pact because it does not intend to fight with South Africa.

Mr Sixishe added that the Lesotho Government believes that South Africa was not a country which could honor any written treaty. If South Africa wants peace, Mr Sixishe said, it must end its violent system of apartheid which was killing people and forcing them to become refugees.

MOZAMBIQUE

Railway Workers Killed in 'Armed Bandit' Ambush

MB071138 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Four Mozambican railroad workers were killed on Sunday when the train in which they were travelling was ambushed by Mozambican National Resistance armed bandits near the town of Magude in Maputo Province. The workers were involved in repair and maintenance work on the line and were travelling in the luggage van of the train, which was seriously damaged by a mine. All four died instantly and one of the workers was injured.

The train was derailed by the explosion and the armed bandits opened fire with light weapons. They fled when soldiers escorting the train returned their fire. The train was not carrying any goods or passengers.

USSR Delegation 'Concerned' About Southern Africa

MB062017 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Mozambican and Soviet parliamentarians have expressed great concern over the development of the situation in Southern Africa. This is one of the points contained in a joint statement issued in Maputo following talks between deputies of Mozambique's Peoples Assembly and a high-level visiting delegation from the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The two sides said imperialism is continuing to interfere in the internal affairs of independent states in Southern Africa. This, they said, was a threat to the independence and sovereignty of these states. In the statement, the Mozambican side praises Soviet initiatives aimed at preserving world peace. The Soviet side noted that Mozambique is also playing an important role in the struggle for international peace and security.

Foreign Minister Returns From Arusha Conference

MB071851 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, Mozambican foreign minister, returned to Maputo this afternoon from Arusha, in Tanzania, where he took part in the conference of the Socialist International in support of the Frontline States. The Mozambique delegation to the conference, which was led by President Samora Machel, also included Sergio Vieira and Jose Luis Cabaco, ministers of security and information respectively, and Aquino de Braganca, director of the center for African Studies.

Lusaka Agreement: Anniversary of Mixed Blessings

MB071415 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Lusaka Agreement marks the victory of a just cause over Portuguese colonialism. The cause was just because it was the people's cause for the end of exploitation and oppression and for the right to a free and independent nation. By force of arms, the aggressors were forced to recognize the rights of the Mozambican people. However, the path which we followed after our victory over colonialism has encountered new challenges including the nation's reconstruction, the building of an economy capable of meeting the people's needs, the right to education and health care, and the reassertion of our cultural identity.

Lusaka was thus a victory and the beginning of new battles. But to the desire of the people to build true independence and socialism, imperialism responded with new attacks. Once again the people were mobilized to confront the war, and the illegal Rhodesian regime was defeated.

New aggression was prepared by South Africa, which launched attacks directly or through the use of the armed bandits. Imperialism pledged to destroy the Mozambique revolution. The successive wars imposed on our country forced us to divert scarce resources for the war effort.

To this latest aggression, the Nkomati nonaggression pact is our response. Through it we are keeping the enemy at bay, thus enabling us to strengthen our country and solve our problems. The implementation by South Africa of this accord opens up a prospect for peace for us, the peace for which we have fought for 20 years, a just peace and a peace which, like the Lusaka Agreement, is not negotiable and which once again will be achieved through the force of arms by liquidating the armed bandits. As in Lusaka, this will mean the victory of a just cause over aggression and exploitation and the achievement of a free and independent nation.

Political Bureau Member Departs for Bulgaria

MB070927 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, left yesterday for Bulgaria where he will attend the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the triumph of the socialist revolution in that country. The anniversary of the Bulgarian revolution will be marked on 9 September.

SOUTH AFRICA

Courts Battle Over Release of Boycott Leaders

Judge Orders Detainees Released

MB080600 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] A Supreme Court judge in Pietermartizburg, Mr Justice B. Law, has ordered the immediate release of certain people who were detained on the eve of the Indian and Colored elections last month. Those released include the president of the Natal Indian Congress, Mr George Sewpersadh, and the vice chairman, Mr M.J. Naaidoo.

Mr Justice Law found that the notices of detention served on the seven were invalid, because the minister of law had not complied with the provisions of the Internal Security Act, in terms of which the notices were served.

Detention Orders Quickly Reissued

MB100546 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has ordered the redetention of seven Pietermaritzburg detainees released on Friday, when a judge ruled that the minister's detention orders were invalid. The minister's press secretary, Colonel (Leon Mellett), said Mr le Grange had also served new detention orders on 10 detainees held at the Johannesburg prison, only hours before an urgent application for their release had been brought before the Rand Supreme Court. The detainees were held on the eve of the Colored and Indian elections.

Col (Mellett) said renewed detention orders had also been signed for others still in detention elsewhere in the country. Those to be redetained in Natal include the president of the United Democratic Front, Mr Archibald Gumede, and the president of the Natal Indian Congress, Mr George Sewpersadh.

In the meantime it has been reported that the deputy president of the Azanian Peoples Organization, Mr Sath Cooper, has been detained in terms of the Internal Security Act.

Court Hears Release Request

MB100603 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0550 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 10, SAPA — An urgent application for the release of 12 detainees from the new Johannesburg Prison was heard yesterday in the Rand Supreme Court. New detention notices under the Internal Security Act were served on the detainees at 1 am yesterday morning, and stated that no further information could be disclosed about the detentions without detriment to the public interest. Mr Justice Harry Nestadt reserved judgement until 9:30 am today.

Yesterday's application followed a Pietermaritzburg judge's precedent-setting decision last week to release seven detainees, making a similar discharge possible for other detainees. Mr Justice Law ruled that the seven anti-election campaigners detained in a pre-election swoop had been unlawfully imprisoned, and said the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, had failed to give information as required in terms of the act for the detention and hence the detention notices were invalid. The seven were detained on August 21 and were to have remained in detention until February 28, according to a notice signed by Mr le Grange.

Judge Law said that, in terms of the Internal Security Act, the minister was obliged to serve detainees with a written statement setting out the reasons for their detention and as much of the information which induced him to issue the notices that could be disclosed without detriment to the public interest. If he withheld such information for public interest, he must state so in the notice.

Mr Justice Law described as "insufficient" Mr le Grange's statement that he was satisfied that the detainees had attempted "by their actions and utterances to create a revolutionary climate which could endanger law and order."

Yesterday's application in the Rand Supreme Court was brought on the grounds that, in terms of the act, no information for the detentions was given and that the detainees were entitled to know the reasons for their detention. A lawyer acting for the detainees, Mrs Priscilla Jana, said in an affidavit before the court that she had made arrangements with the Prisons Department to get signed affadavits from the detainees at 5 pm on Saturday. She and an advocate went to the prison but were ordered out without having the affadavits signed, she said.

When they returned to the New Johannesburg Prison at 8 am yesterday they discovered that new detention orders had been served on the detainees at 1 am. The orders were issued under the Internal Security Act, and purported to rectify the loophole in the first notice. A new clause in the notice, signed by Mr Le Grange in Potchefstroom on Saturday night, stated that "no other information can in my opinion be disclosed without detriment to the public interest."

Appearing in court yesterday, the advocate for the detainees argued that the minister had, in fact, given no information about the detentions other than the reason that the detainees, by their actions and utterances, had created a revolutionary climate which could endanger law and order. The minister had therefore, he said, not complied with the terms of the act. The new notice was invalid and the detentions unlawful, he contended.

The state opposed the application on the grounds that the "reasons" and "information" were the same thing, and that further information was being withheld because it could not be disclosed without detriment to the public interest.

Court Refutes Release Application

MB100912 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0900 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 10, SAPA — An urgent application for the release of 12 detainees from Diepkloof prison was refused today by a Rand Supreme Court judge on the grounds that the notices of detention serviced on them were valid.

Mr Justice H. Nestadt said his judgement was that the minister of justice had yesterday given sufficient reason for the detention of anti-election campaigners on August 12. He said the addition of a sentence in the fresh notices served on the detainees by the minister early yesterday morning had sufficiently set out further reasons for the detention.

The sentence read: "No other information can in my opinion be disclosed without detriment to the public interest." Mr Justice Nestadt ordered that the applicants pay the costs of the action.

SACC Asks Consultations With Vaal Triangle Leaders

MB061945 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1856 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 6, SAPA — The South African Council of Churches tonight called on the government to consult with "all the acknowledged leaders of the communities and students concerned" in the unrest in Vaal Triangle and East Rand townships during the past week, in which 31 people have died and 50 have been injured.

In a statement released at a press conference at Khotso House, Johannesburg, the SACC Executive Committee said it had held an emergency meeting today to consider the "crisis situation". First-hand reports had been received from members of the Executive Committee regarding the violence, and victims of violence and the relatives of those killed had been interviewed by the executive committee, the statement said.

"In the light of the evidence received, the Executive Committee:

— "Records its shock and anger at the irresponsible and uncontrolled actions of some members of the South African police, and the manner in which some unruly elements in the areas concerned hijacked a legitimate protest;

— "Expresses its distress and concern regarding the manner in which the government refuses to admit publicly the root causes of the unrest, which can only increase unless genuine grievances are heard and dealt with in a manner which recognises the human dignity and rights of all South Africans;

— "Calls on all members elected to the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates to resign forthwith, and on those involved in the government agencies which are responsible for the unrest, to withdraw their participation forthwith;

— "Calls on member churches, and all ministers and congregations, to offer their support and facilities to those affected by the unrest;

— "Expresses its solidarity with the tenants, workers, students, and parents in their struggle for justice and a participatory society;

— "Calls on the government to consult with the acknowledged leaders of the communities and the students concerned;

— "Calls on the government to release all people arrested or detained during the recent elections for the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates; and

— "Pledges itself to pray and strive for a society in which the rights and responsibilities of all South Africans are recognised, which this council believes to be the only permanent answer to the recurring unrest which has become endemic in South Africa ever since June 16, 1976."

SACC Request Not Accepted

MB071815 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The secretary general of the state president's office, Dr Roux, has denied a radio report that the former state president, Mr Marais Viljoen, had reacted positively to a South African Council of Churches [SACC] proposal that an emergency meeting of church leaders and cabinet members be held to discuss the recent unrest in the Vaal Triangle and on the East Rand. Dr Roux said in a statement to theSouth African Broadcasting Corporation that the report was devoid of all truth.

According to the report, a request for such a meeting was made in telegrams to Mr Viljoen and the minister of law and order, Mr le Grange. The report quoted the general secretary of the SACC, Bishop Tutu, as having said that Mr Viljoen had reacted positively in a telephone call and that Mr le Grange had not responded to the request.

Council Refuses To Lower Rents

MB090548 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] A meeting between the Lekoa Town Council, which controls most of the black townships in the Vaal Triangle, and a delegation of residents, has ended in deadlock. The chief director of the Orange-Vaal Development Board, Mr D.C. Gunn, says in a statement issued in Johannesburg that the meeting was called to discuss the grievances of residents in the riot-torn townships south of Johannesburg.

Residents at the meeting demanded the resignation of 36 councillors, the scrapping of the proposed 5.60 rand rent increase, and that rent be fixed at 30 rand. They also demanded the release of all detainees, and the withdrawal of police from the area.

The council, however, refused to comply with any of the demands. The council said the rent increase would be implemented, and that assistance would given to those who could not afford it. It would also not resign before gauging the opinions of the voters in their constituencies.

New Outbreaks of Violence in Black Townships

NC081932 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 8 (AFP) — Another outbreak of violence in a black township near Johannesburg today left one demonstrator dead and a black policeman critically injured, police said. The violence in Katlehong Township, during which a crowd of residents burned down the mayor's home and attacked two men guarding the building, was the most serious of several incidents in black residential areas near here since rioting early this week that left at least 31 people dead.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said demonstrators set fire to the mayor's house and stabbed two security officers guarding the residence following funeral ceremonies for a person killed in the earlier unrest. One of the guards, a black policeman, was sent to hospital in critical condition, the spokesman said. A passing police patrol opened fire on two men fleeing from the burning house, killing a 33-year-old man and wounding the second, he said.

The police said calm had returned to Katlehong, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of here, by later in the day. The incident followed another burst of unrest in the giant black township of Soweto late yesterday in which one person was injured by police.

In the rioting earlier this week in several townships set up for blacks working in the Johannesburg area, demonstrators protesting rent increases also attacked local officials, who are seen as collaborators of South Africa's minority white rulers.

Three members of the municipal council of Lekoa, which is responsible for running several black townships in the industrial Vaal Triangle south and east of Johannesburg, were killed in the riots. Since the eruption of violence on Monday, police have reported sporadic incidents in black townships around Johannesburg as well as in Orange Free State and at the University of Zululand in Natal province.

Late yesterday police wounded one demonstrator in the giant township of Soweto after protesters threw a Molotov cocktail at a house, while several other clashes were also reported in the town. Police had earlier banned all political meetings over the weekend. Anti-apartheid groups had planned to hold gatherings to mark the 1977 death in detention of black consciousness leader Steve Biko.

The unrest has come among high tensions over recent controversial reforms giving a limited political voice to South Africa's small Indian and mixed-race communities but excluding the 73 percent black majority.

House Burned, Arsonists Shot

MB090650 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0625 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 9, SAPA — Besides the "isolated" incident in Katlehong yesterday which left one man dead, three injured — one seriously — and the mayor's house burnt to the ground, black Vaal townships were otherwise quiet, a police spokesman said today.

The identity of the dead man was today disclosed as 33-year-old Mr Boy Simeon Sibisi, address unknown, liaison officer Major C.P. Crafford said from Pretoria. Mr Sibisi was fatally wounded in the head after a group of rioters stoned and then set fire to the house of Katlehong mayor, Mr Alf Khumalo, Major Crafford said.

After police had arrived at the mayors house, Major Crafford said, the rioters had dispersed. Sergeant E. Goosen, of the Germiston CID [Criminal Investigation Department] branch, had followed two men from the scene and pursued them for two kilometres. During the process Mr Sibisi was shot dead and Mr Johannes Rampore, 25, wounded in the leg.

Major Craford said the rioters had attacked three policemen guarding the mayor's house before they set it alight. They stole two guns from one of the policemen, who is attached to the East Rand administration board, and beat him with pangas. The policeman, whose identity is still unkown, is in a serious condition in Katlehong Hospital, Major Crafford said.

The police spokesman added that the Katlehong incident was an "isolated case of unrest" in the black townships. At present, Katlehong was "under control."

Major Crafford said police did not have to take any action in Daveyton yesterday when an estimated 3000 people, mostly youths, contravened a ban on weekend gatherings to attend the funeral of four youths killed last week during widespread unrest over rent increases. "Everything was perfectly quiet," he said.

Police Disperse Stone Throwers

MB091354 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1349 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 9, SAPA — Police used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds gathered in Sebokeng today, and protestors stoned police vehicles and set up roadblocks in the town. The Public Relations Division of the South African Police said in Pretoria that there was disruption at two gatherings in Sebokeng, one of the Vaal Triangle towns at the centre of unrest during the past week. No injuries were reported in the incidents.

Major Kobus van Rooyen, a spokesman for the S.A. Police, said bus services in Sebokeng had been halted today. S.A. Police vehicles were damaged by stone throwers and residents set up makeshift roadblocks in the town, Major Van Rooyen said.

Incidents in Parys, Warmbaths

MB100918 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0906 GMT 10 Sep 84

[Text] Pretoria, Sept 10, SAPA — It was quiet in the Vaal Triangle black townships today but police in Pretoria reported incidents in black areas in Parys and Warmbaths. A police spokesman, Lieutenant T. Jefferson, said police used tear smoke to disperse crowds who erected barricades accross roads in Tumahole, near Parys, yesterday.

He said there had been isolated incidents of stone throwing and a window at a black nursing home in the township was broken. Lieutenant Jefferson said earlier reports that two houses had been set on fire were not correct. "We have now established there was no arson in Tumahole."

At Warmbaths, there had been stone throwing at Bella-Bella High School and two cars had been set alight. SAPA's Warmbaths correspondent reports one of the cars set on fire belonged to the school's principal, Mr D. Mramaboa. Pupils were boycotting classes in protest against the detention on Friday of one of their teachers, who allegedly intimidated pupils during a class boycott earlier this year. Police were on standby at the school, the correspondent said.

Public Meetings Banned in Johannesburg

MB071824 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] All public meetings to commemorate the death of Steve Biko or gatherings to discuss the deaths of people during the recent unrest or to ask for the release of detainees have been banned in the Johannesburg area this weekend. The banning is in terms of the Internal Security Act.

The chief magistrate of Johannesburg, Mr (Olaf de Meyer), said in a statement this afternoon that he had reason to believe that public peace would be seriously threatened by such gatherings. Mr (de Meyer) said that three organizations in particular, the Release Mandela Committee, the Federation of South African Women, and the Azanian Peoples Organization had been ordered not to hold any meetings. The ban also applies to black residential areas.

Indian Group Fears African-Indian Ill-feelings

MB071145 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1106 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept 7, SAPA — The Transvaal Indian Congress [TIC] has accused "opportunists and supporters of apartheid" of fueling ill-feelings between Indian and African people in the Vaal Triangle after several Indian shops in the area were looted by mobs in the area this week.

In a statement today, the TIC said the burning of shops and businesses reflected the tragedy of the South African situation. The organisation called on all people in the area to show restraint. "We express our condolences with the families of those who have died and suffered losses during the past few days, and want to point out that the violence in the past few days was not aimed at any specific community, because all communities in the area suffered losses.

"The TIC has met leaders of the Vaal Civic Association and the United Democratic Front [UDF], and we have been assured that the violence was not aimed at any particular community. Both Indian and African people suffered in the chaos of the past few days," said the secretary of the TIC, Mr Ismail Momoniat.

He said the TIC had been assured that the African community had no grudge against the Indian community. "It is only those who have been elected to parliament and community councillors who are regarded as traitors. We have also met the Roshnee and Evaton communities to assure them that no similar incidents will take place, Mr Momoniat said.

The TIC, Vaal Civic Association, and UDF leaders have drawn up a programme of action in consultation with the Evaton and Roshnee communities. Details of the programme will be released early next week, Mr Momoniat said.

Released UNITA Captives Arrive in Johannesburg

MB090530 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] The Portuguese consul in Johannesburg, Mr (Eduardo Fernandes), says the 25 people who arrived in Johannesburg yesterday after being freed by UNITA in southern Angola are likely to be repatriated shortly. The group includes 11 nuns from Italy, Spain, Mexico, Colombia, and Angola itself, who will be flying to Rome soon.

Mr (Fernandes) said that the remaining 14, who had been mostly employed as technicians in mining, would be repatriated to Portugal. The group arrived aboard an aircraft chartered by the Red Cross, from the main UNITA camp at Jamba, in southern Angola.

Red Cross Spokesman Comments

MB090900 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0854 GMT 9 Sep 84

[Text] Pretoria, Sep 9, SAPA — Two small children and 11 women were among the 25 UNITA hostages flown from southern Angola by the International Red Cross to South Africa and freedom yesterday, a spokesman for the organisation confirmed in Pretoria today.

Fourteen of the released hostages were Portuguese, three Spanish, five Mexican, one a Cape Verdian, one a Colombian, and one an Angolan, said Mr Andre Collomb, head of mission of Red Cross International in South Africa. Ten Catholic nuns, one of them Angolan, and a priest, were among the 25 who were flown into Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport at 5 pm yesterday.

The hostages, all understood to be in a good condition, after their capture six months ago by UNITA rebel forces in Angola and a walk of some hundreds of kilometres to the organisation's capital, Jamba, in southern Angola, had been handed over to their countries representatives, and would probably be leaving soon for home, Mr Collomb said. Among the hostages aboard the chartered C-130 transport aircraft were 11 woman and two small children.

The 10 nuns and the priest reported to be "fine and in good spirits" this morning by the mother superior at the Holy Provincial Convent in Victory Park, Johannesburg. She said she could not elaborate as further information was confidential.

Commenting on the attempted news blackout by authorities, Mr Collomb said it was not Red Cross practice to inform the media of such operations, although questions were answered as fully as possible. The media has been prevented from speaking to any of the released hostages. Mr Collomb said the matter was out of his hands now as they had been handed over to the representative of their countries.

Asked if any negotiations were taking place for the release of any more UNITA hostages, Mr Collomb said Red Cross headquarters in Geneva held regular discussions with the organisation. As a result of the discussions, it had been decided to carry out yesterdays operation but he did not know of any more planned for the near future.

Swaziland Water Development Program Approved

MB071735 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Text] The Department of Water Affairs has announced that the governments of South Africa and Swaziland have approved in principle a joint development program for the two countries. The managing engineer of the department, Mr (Theo van Roubroek), said in an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation that the first phase of the scheme would be the construction of a dam on the Komati River.

He said the dam would be on both sides of the border and that a full feasability study of this phase was now being launched. Mr (Van Roubroek) said design studies, access roads, and a drilling program would begin soon as a prelude to construction.

New U.S. Foreign Policy Helps Reagan; Affects Africa

MB071655 Johannesburg International Service in English
1500 GMT 7 Sep 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Managers of President Reagan's campaign for reelection in the United States must be overjoyed. Every new poll shows a widening gab between Mr Reagan's popularity and that of his opponent Mr Walter Mondale, a gap largely attributable to the present foreign state of the American economy.

In addition, the issue of which he was seen as being most vulnerable, a confrontation between the superpowers, is undergoing a radical redefinition in the public mind and that protest is also working in his favor. Until a month or 2 ago there seemed to be no doubt that the foreign policy debate in the American presidential campaign would be dominated by the deadlock with Moscow on nuclear arms talks.

Accordingly the Democrats fashioned their attack around that point portraying Mr Reagan as being unwilling to negotiate. But the focus of the attack has grown more and more hazy. Increasingly it is the Soviet Union that is seen as being the superpower that obstinately refuses to negotiate about either long-range or medium-range missiles. And having lost its campaign to keep Pershing and cruise missiles out of Western Europe, it is damaging its image in the West even further by its response of placing more missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The belligerents are more clearly seen to be not the Reagan administration but the Soviet leadership. What is now emerging as the new focus of the debate is the overall state of the power relationship and how it has changed as a direct result of Reagan's policies. These are some of the latest indicators of the changes. In Johannesburg this week the former secretary general of NATO, Dr Joseph Luns, pointed out that in the past few years the Soviet Union had been unable to make any further gains in Africa. Speaking at a conference of the South African Institute of International Affairs, Dr Luns also drew attention to growing disharmony in the Warsaw Pact over the desire of certain governments to draw closer to an economically reviving West.

In the United States, the final decision to put the B-1B bomber into production has just been announced. In Western Europe, there is to be the biggest combined military exercise since the war when more than a quarter of a million soldiers from NATO countries will be put through their paces in West Germany, highlighting the virtual collapse of the peace movement that just a year ago was threatening to plunge that country into anarchy if it went so far as to deploy missiles.

An in-depth analysis this week by the British news magazine, *THE ECONOMIST*, comes to the conclusion that for the present Soviet leaders, the 1970's must look like a golden age. An America stunned by Vietnam was letting Russia outarm the

West in important ways. The Soviet sphere of influence expanded into Africa and Afghanistan, and Iran fell out of America's influence. The deployment of the SS-20's, which began in 1977, started to open a gap between Europe and America by drawing attention to the lack of any American equivalent to the SS-20's in Europe, and thereby making Europeans doubt America's willingness to protect them.

As *THE ECONOMIST* points out, the hopes have failed one by one. The Reagan rearmament program has cancelled Russia's potential military advantage. The counterdeployment of cruise and Pershing missiles is restoring a visible American umbrella over Europe. The Soviet footholds in Mozambique and to some extent Angola have been pushed aside by South Africa. The new Iran has been no benefit to Russia. The war in Afghanistan is unwon and apparently unending.

That perspective on East-West relations, and hence of the effects of President Reagan's foreign policies, is clearly gaining ground. It will not be without effect in American domestic politics in the next 2 months.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Returns From Ethiopian Party Meeting

MB081216 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 8 Sep 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has returned from Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, where he had been invited for the official launching of the new Ethiopian Worker's Party. President Kaunda was among several leaders who were invited to witness the launching of the party. Others included Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique, Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The president also addressed the new party's first congress, during which he called on its leaders not to fall prey to disunity and corruption. Dr Kaunda was met on arrival at Lusaka International Airport by Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, as well as other senior party and government officials.